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Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Ministers End Emergency Session 29 Oct

LD2910124390 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] This afternoon the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] foreign ministers concluded the 13th emergency session of the GCC Council at the GCC General Secretariat in Riyadh.

Arab League Chief To Assume Post in Cairo

NC2910172390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1647 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 29 Oct (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that Arab League Acting Secretary General As'ad al-As'ad will arrive in Cairo 30 October, Tuesday, to begin work from the League's permanent headquarters in implementation of an Arab League resolution adopted in March.

The foreign minister added that the arrival of the acting secretary general will be the first step in resuming Arab League activities from Cairo.

On another issue, the foreign minister said that Egypt's stand on the Gulf crisis is very clear and is based on the need for total Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of its legitimate government. He added that if it proves possible to achieve this objective peacefully, then Egypt will welcome this as a way of sparing the region the dangers of a destructive war. He said Egypt is attentively following up the efforts to resolve the crisis peacefully.

Arab Transport Ministers Conference Opens

NC2710134690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1111 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 27 Oct (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has stated that the cancellation of Egypt's military debts to the United States and of its debts to Arab states will ease the burden on Egypt's balance of payments by reducing our debt servicing by approximately $1 billion annually. After opening the sixth session of the Arab transport ministers conference that began in Cairo this morning, Dr. Sidqi said that the cancellation of these debts will free up funds that can be used to bolster development projects that rely on local as well as foreign resources. He said: We will use the funds that were to go toward paying off our debt to invigorate the development process. He noted that the debt problem concerns all developing countries. He pointed out that there is an international trend to ease the world burden of debt. If this trend triumphs, he said, our growth rate will increase. He said that the current economic situation in Egypt has improved 20 times over. Dr. Sidqi said that the current Arab meeting in Egypt—the sixth session of the Arab transport ministers—signifies that Egypt is Egypt and that it is the heart of the Arab nation. He noted that despite all the problems, 19 countries, including some that have their own views on the Gulf crisis, are attending the conference. We would have liked the two countries that apologized for their absence—Iraq and Jordan—to have come as well.

Dr. Sidqi said that Egypt rejected the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait despite its closeness to Iraq in view of their membership in the Arab Cooperation Council, because of its principles. He noted that this meeting is being held under the aegis of the Arab League, thereby responding to the calls for postponing the transfer of the Arab League headquarters to Cairo.

Dr. Sidqi said that the Egyptian delegation to the meeting of the joint Egyptian-Saudi preparatory committee left for Riyadh yesterday to prepare the agenda for the meeting of the joint Egyptian-Saudi committee that will take place at the foreign minister level in Cairo from 10 to 12 November. He praised Egyptian-Saudi cooperation in all areas.

Recommendations Made

NC3010132790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] The sixth session of the Arab transport ministers council ended today and issued its resolutions and recommendations. The council decided to consider all the measures taken by the Iraqi authorities in the various fields of transport in Kuwait as null and void. The conference also stressed Kuwait's right to compensation for the damages it has suffered as a result of the Iraqi invasion. It called on all Arab governments not to deal in any way with the Iraqi authorities or their institutions in any transport matter that concerns Kuwait.

The Arab transport ministers praised President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's role in dealing with the Gulf crisis. The conference sent a cable of thanks and gratitude to President Mubarak and the Egyptian people for the welcome accorded the Arab ministers, thus contributing to the success of the conference.

The ministers decided to form a committee comprising the Arab civil transport ministers. They asked the council's technical secretariat to invite this committee to a meeting to start its work before the end of the current year.

The council also decided to move the headquarters of the Arab Academy for Naval Transport back to Alexandria.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Adviser on 'Encouraging Iraqi Response'

NC3010153990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1402 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, has said that the PLO has not called for a new Arab League to be established and does not intend to do so. He noted that the PLO has endorsed the move of the Arab League to its Cairo headquarters.

In a statement before he left Cairo airport for Tunis this afternoon, Dr. Sha'th denied that the PLO is opposed to the Arab League's transfer to Cairo, describing such reports as baseless and untrue. Dr. Sha'th said that what happened was merely a problem of procedure emerging from the PLO's desire to see the League return to Cairo in a climate of Arab unity.

Dr. Sha'th said that he and Yasir 'Arafat will consult in Tunis on efforts to achieve a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. He noted that 'Arafat paid a visit to Baghdad where he conferred with Soviet envoy Yevgeniy Primakov as well as with the Iraqi leadership.

Dr. Sha'th said that a serious attempt is under way to achieve an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis, referring in this regard to what he described as the existence of an encouraging Iraqi response.

Dr. Sha'th said that he will later leave Tunis for Paris at the beginning of a European tour during which he will meet officials of the French, Swedish, and Italian foreign ministries to discuss the latest developments in the Gulf.

PLF, 'Abbas Reportedly Expelled From Libya

JN3110085590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Oct 90 pp 1, 5

[Report by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Amman—The Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), headed by Muhammad 'Abbas, has been expelled from Libya, according to Arab diplomatic sources in Tripoli.

According to one of the sources, "the Libyan authorities have closed down all Abu-al-'Abbas offices, as well as the training camp in the jamahiriyah."

The PLF has also been expelled from the country, and Abu al-'Abbas has been banned from entering Libya," he source added.

No other detail was given from Tripoli, but PLF sources in Amman confirmed the measure. The sources said that the move, which was made last week, must have resulted from pressure from the United States and Egypt.

The new Libyan ambassador to Jordan, Muhammad 'Ali Ba'wash, could not be reached for comment. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) could not confirm the report.

Abu al-'Abbas, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, has been in Baghdad since his organisation hijacked the Italian cruiseship, the Achille Lauro, in 1985. He maintains offices in both Iraq and Libya.

Last May, Israeli authorities aborted a PLF attempt to stage an attack on a beach near Tel Aviv. The failed bid resulted in the U.S. suspending its dialogue with the PLO for not condemning the attempt and expelling Abu al-'Abbas from the Executive Committee.

Tripoli was bombed by the United States in 1986 for its alleged involvement in and support of "international terrorism."

PFLP's Habash on Gulf Crisis, Syrian Stance

PM3110113990 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 29 Oct 90 pp 27-28

[Interview with Dr. George Habash, secretary general of Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), by Hamidah Na'na' in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [Na'na'] We would like first to hear your assessment of events and of the current phase, and in particular their effect on the Palestinian question?

[Habash] Without any exaggeration I say that what has happened historically places us face to face with two possibilities: The beginning of a progressive Arab renaissance with the gradual achievement of one pan-Arab objective after another, or a return to the days of direct imperialism or direct imperialist hegemony which could lead to new partition agreements ending in at least a temporary collapse of the Arab position.

It is therefore necessary to plan and work for the first possibility to result from the conflict. That means victory, and although it is a difficult battle, the elements of that victory are:

1. The might of the Iraqi Army which, as testified by Western studies centers, has become one of the strongest armies in the world in terms of the deterrent weapons it has.

2. Iraq is sitting on a lake of oil, and the Iraqi leadership can tell the world: If you want to destroy me, that is a justification for me to destroy that lake. Everyone knows that oil is the lifeline of Western civilization, and it is not easy for the U.S. Administration or the West to face such a threat.

Let us ask ourselves why U.S. aggression has not materialized so far? Is it because of love or mercy for us? Of course not.

What has prevented aggression so far is the primary deterrent represented by the might of the Iraqi Army. If the United States could have retaliated against Iraq in the first five minutes it would not have hesitated to do so because every delay undermines its prestige.

It is awaiting the concentration of enough military power to begin the aggression. It is estimated that the U.S. forces will complete their preparations during the second half of October, but will the aggression begin when the U.S. forces complete their preparations? That could happen, but it is not certain to happen because of that other deterrent represented by the oil lake.

Furthermore, there is a third force which the United States is beginning to take into consideration on the basis of past experience, although it is not a factor that can be entered as data into the U.S. computers. By that I mean the movement of the Arab masses and what they might do in the event of aggression. The strength of the Iraqi Army can be fed into a computer with data on the aircraft, artillery, tanks, and missiles it has, but who can compute the power of the third force, and who can say what would happen in the event of U.S. aggression? What would happen in Egypt and the Arabian Peninsula itself?

That is why, despite my sense of apprehension, I have a feeling of courage and daring because there is a great chance for the Arab nation to surge forward to a new era after the post-Camp David slumber.

[Na'na'] It has recently been claimed that what has happened in the Gulf has eclipsed and could delay settlement of the Palestinian question. What is your opinion?

[Habash] I will be frank. In the first few days I paused and said to myself that it is not easy to have an intifadah every day, and that the intifadah came to achieve some of our Palestinian national objectives, the main weapon being the image that it created of putting pressure on the international community so that it in turn could put pressure on Israel and the U.S. Administration and promote the intifadah's aims of freedom and independence. I said that there was now a new item on the agenda of the international community: the Gulf crisis. That was my feeling until Iraq itself linked the settlement of the Gulf crisis on the basis of international legitimacy to the settlement of the Middle East crisis on the same basis.

The Gulf developments then became an important factor for the intifadah, not a negative factor, and although I wagered on world public opinion, I could not decisively say how effective it would be in the face of Israeli intransigence.

We had proceeded on the basis of the strength of the intifadah and world public opinion. Now we have a major element of strength. The Gulf crisis, which scares the world with its possible consequences, has produced an Iraqi position which tells the U.S. Administration: If you are so keen to apply international legitimacy, then let us apply it to all Middle Eastern issues because we do not want American-style international legitimacy.

So, after 2 August the Gulf events became an added strength for the intifadah. I do not agree with the Western media which are telling our masses inside the occupied territory that the Gulf events came at the expense of the intifadah.

[Na'na'] During the latest Palestine National Council [PNC] session in Algiers you recognized Resolution 242 and international legitimacy. You personally had an observation about that.

[Habash] We recognized it, but we did not agree with it.

[Na'na'] Was there a reservation?

[Habash] It was not a reservation. In the PNC there are reservations and there are objections. We objected.

[Na'na'] But you approved the creation of a Palestinian state?

[Habash] Of course, but on the basis of the independence document, which does not mention Resolution 242.

[Na'na'] Numerous states have recognized you. That is part of international legitimacy. Assuming the Security Council decides to implement the resolutions passed on the Palestinian question, would you then call on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait?

[Habash] That was the initiative of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn himself, and so there is no need for any such request. President Saddam's initiative seeks the application of international legitimacy to all issues of the region. I believe that would be a major gain for the Palestinian cause and the Arab cause as a whole. At the Palestinian level, international legitimacy does not give us all our historical rights but it does give us our rights to repatriation, self-determination, and a state.

[Na'na'] You recently met with Saddam Husayn after a long absence. How did the meeting go?

[Habash] It was very cordial, so much so that I was surprised by the level of its cordiality. We had not been in agreement with Iraq from 1980 through the end of the Iraq-Iran war. As everyone knows, any political disagreement affects the general atmosphere. If I was not afraid that my words might be seen as a side effect of the meeting or as appeasement, I would say that I came out with an amazing picture of Saddam Husayn who has recently been called all kinds of things. I found myself face to face with a warm, friendly man who thinks and who knows what he wants, and who is a good listener.

[Na'na'] An Arab state requested the intervention of U.S. and Arab forces. Some of the states which you had counted on, such as Syria, have sent troops. You have left Syria for Iraq. How do you view that matter? Will you go back to Syria?

[Habash] I do not see that my presence in Syria meant identity of political views between the PFLP and Syria. It also never occurred to me until this moment that I would have to pay a political price for my presence in Syria. This is not the first time there has been disagreement over a political situation, with the PFLP taking a position not in agreement with the Syrian position.

We took an open stand when Syria decided to oust Yasir 'Arafat in 1983, and we took a stand different to that of Syria when the camps war broke out, and there was disagreement when the PNC unification session was held. I said to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad that I perceived my presence in Syria on that basis, with the hope that this would be a new experiment in civilized relations and that we could settle this matter in a civilized way so that if the Syrian regime wanted us to leave we would not impose ourselves on it.

[Na'na'] I saw you at the popular conference in Amman, and I saw people wanting to lift your car. How did it feel to come back and find that what you had struggled and lived for was still alive and that the Gulf crisis has revived all your dreams of the sixties?

[Habash] I admit that when I was no longer among the people I wept like a child.

[Na'na'] You have not given me your opinion of the Arab states which sent forces to be deployed alongside the U.S. forces in the Gulf.

[Habash] That, with the exception of Syria, was expected from the Gulf states, the Camp David regime, and the godfather of Camp David. The exception was the Syrian position, and we hope it can be corrected as soon as possible.

Intifadah Call Says 'Massacres' 'Turning Point'

LD3010231690 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 30 Oct 90

["Text" of Call No. 63 issued by "the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah," UNLI, on 29 October; read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Call, call, call. No voice rises above the voice of the intifadah; no voice rises above the voice of the people of Palestine, the people of the PLO.

Call No. 63; call of the second anniversary of independence; call for struggle to defend the homeland's freedom and independence.

O sons of the brave intifadah: After the bloody Sunday massacre in 'Ayun Kara [Rishon LeZiyyon]; the recent bestial bloody operations in Burayj, Janin, and Jamma'in; the Israeli Government's escalation through frequent statements on the settlement of Jews from the USSR and expanding the settlements in Jerusalem to absorb the new immigrants; and the fascist and racist statements on demolishing the holy al-Aqsa and fulfilling the Zionist dream to establish the temple, the Zionist occupation authorities and the extremist fascist, racist groups committed the more horrible and hideous crime in the Holy al-Aqsa courtyard, the first of the two qiblahs and the third holy mosque, in which 21 martyrs fell and approximately 200 were wounded, most of whom sustained serious wounds.

The new Zionist crime came as an attempt by the Shamir government to exploit the world's preoccupation with the Gulf crisis by attacking and isolating the intifadah. The crime is also an integral link in the American-Atlantic aggression covered by America's Arabs against the steadfast sisterly Iraq. This crime affirms the unity of the battle facing the Arab nation from holy Jerusalem to the Arabian Gulf as well as the close connection of the solutions required by the disputes in the region, particularly the Arab Palestinian-Israeli dispute.

The positions the international community has adopted on the massacres perpetrated against the sons of our people and expressed through the Security Council resolution, which was weak and insufficient in responding to the massacres perpetrated by Israel against the sons of our people; and the international community's failure to shoulder its responsibility in protecting our people who are only armed with their belief in their legitimate national rights and their readiness to defend these rights, prompted many citizens to respond to the butchers of our people.

Within this framework, the UNLI holds the Israeli authorities and the Security Council responsible for the recent violent events in al-Baq'ah and al-Nabi Ya'qub and other similar events that resulted from the escalation of the violence by the Israeli ruling authorities as well as from the Security Council's failure to implement its resolutions.

The UNLI warns Israeli authorities against continuing the massacres against the sons of our people, declaring that the massacres will lead to a series of massacres. And the only solution lies in Israel's response to the Palestinian peace initiative and the convening of the international conference.

And until this is achieved, the United Nations must shoulder its responsibility to protect the sons of our people.

The UNLI reaffirms the soundness of the resolutions the PLO Central Council had adopted for the settlement of the Gulf crisis, resolutions that have emphasized the need to rule out war, a war that Washington and its allies are preparing against Iraq, and that have also emphasized the crisis must be settled within the Arab framework. This will end foreign military interference, specifically U.S. interference, and will safeguard comprehensive Arab interests. This means the need to link the settlement of the Gulf crisis and international protection for our people as an urgent measure to counter the ongoing policy of massacre and terrorism that the Israeli occupation is practicing until the convocation of the international peace conference with the participation of the PLO.

The attainment of this requires a unified Arab stand, particularly by the countries that oppose foreign interference and that work to bring about an Arab solution that links all the crises of the region.

While condemning British obstruction at the UN Security Council of the draft resolution that the nonaligned countries had put forth so that the United States would not be forced to use the right of veto, which would have embarrassed it and its Arab allies who offered cover for its military interference in the region, the UNLI calls on the UN Security Council to assume its responsibilities in forcing Israel to implement its resolutions. The UNLI also calls on friendly countries, particularly the Soviet Union and France, to pursue their work for the adoption of international protection in the occupied state of Palestine and to have this reflected within the UN

Security Council through the drafting of a new resolution containing this principal demand. The friendly countries will be helped in this by the tumultuous popular movement in many countries of the world, including the United States, against the war and for the acknowledgement of the Palestinian people's rights, foremost being their right to self-determination.

The second anniversary of the independence of the state of Palestine falls on the 15th of next month. While celebrating this occasion, the UNLI greets the sons of our people who took to the streets in large numbers expressing their anger and readiness to confront Israeli arrogance by attacking the police posts in Khan Yunus, Rafah, and Ya'bad. The UNLI asserts that collective confrontation is the best course for success, and that the unity and solidarity that recently emerged are the gift we present to our Palestinian state on its second anniversary. The UNLI declares that this type of dealing is the one we seek to enhance, given that it is the sure road to end divisions and score victories.

The UNLI states that the people of the intifadah, with their unity; staunch determination; rallying around the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative; and their abiding by their national program for a political solution represented by the Palestinian peace initiative will make the massacres that are being committed against them become turning points for developing their intifadah. This will enhance all the forms of confronting the Zionist occupiers, and bring the day of salvation closer, the day when they will wrest their right to determine their own fate on their land and establish their national independent state.

O heroic people of the intifadah! The UNLI, while calling on you to shoulder your responsibilities to protect your holy places and close your ranks and consolidate your unity and express your anger at and rejection of occupation by making an organized collective move, urges you to respond to the following demands:

First, the Israeli authorities collect hefty sums of money through the imposition of fines against Palestinian individuals. In response to the stand calling for inflicting losses on the occupation authorities, we expect the sons of our people, who have made sacrifice after sacrifice, to refuse to pay taxes and to choose detention instead. The UNLI also calls on solicitors not to enter deals aimed at replacing detention with fines. Detention centers are schools for struggle of which one can be proud, and of which the sons of our people can be proud through joining.

Second, 8, 9 and 10 November should be considered days of comprehensive strikes in protest of the massacres committed against the sons of our people.

Third, 15, 16 and 17 November should be considered days of important national celebrations on which Palestinian flags should be hoisted, festivals of public addresses should be held, and national costumes should be worn in celebration of the second anniversary of the declaration of the independence of our Palestinian state.

Fourth, 29 November 1990, the day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, should be a day on which the Palestinian masses take to the streets. Slogans should be raised with wide popular participation to demand a response to the rights of our people and to demand international protection.

Fifth, the UNLI decision to open shops all day on the Fridays of 16 and 23 November, and Sundays of 4 and 11 November, shall remain in force.

Sixth, the remaining days of the months are days of struggle activities, and 2 November is considered a distinguished day of escalation.

Forward to action, to the closing of ranks, to unity, to the streets, to all the forms of organized collective moves, to the holy places, to the defense of the first of the two Qiblahs and the third noble sanctuary and all the Islamic and Christian holy places, to making the bloody racist Zionist massacre in the courtyard of the noble al-Aqsa Mosque a turning point for bringing the day of victory forward.

(signed) The Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah, the occupied state of Palestine.

WAFA Commentary Denounces Pro-U.S. Arabs

LD3010165790 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] The political editor of the PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY, WAFA, has written the following commentary: The United States defends Israel and asks the UN Security Council to give it time to convince the killers of the Palestinians to permit an inspection of the Palestinians' blood, and when it fails in its persuasion, it pushes matters to the lowest level, namely the expression of regret.

Meanwhile, President Husni Mubarak unleashes his writers to wipe the Israeli knife clean of the blood of the martyrs in holy Jerusalem, and issues decisions to confiscate the agricultural lands of some Palestinians and disturbs their peace on dark nights with a terror that coincides with the black Israeli terror.

The Gulf newspapers and journalists whose pens write nothing but cheap abuse continue with their daily bites at Palestinian flesh.

The American master pursues his game confiscating opinions, decisions, hopes, and ambitions. The American and European forces set camps over the Arab land, threatening the land with complete devastation and banning anyone who has cause to express an opinion or a view that is not in line with the un-Islamic cries of war uttered by the commander of the American forces, or the Bear as he likes to cal himself. Money is spent, papers are bought, and pens unleashed against all to keep in line or lose their lives.

When the Palestinians entered into dialogue with the Americans, they hoped that the dialogue would develop to acquire a serious content. When the dialogue with the Americans proved futile, those who considered them [the Palestinians] traitors and criminals and unleashed their propaganda machinery against them began to consider the United States their true friend after they [unspecified] began to confront us with abuse and disregard.

Suddenly, the Arab forces were placed unter their [American] command in the Gulf and the demand for the departure of the Americans and the call for the political solution have become a sin punishable by death and the violation of honor and conscience.

None of those who persist in betraying the ideas of the past talks about the unity of the legitimacy and its respect which should prevail and should apply to all issues of the same nature. Indeed, they have even gone beyond that to the extent of keeping silent about the duplicity of the yardsticks. Indeed, they submit to what the United States decides in a humiliating manner. What is worse is that the preparations for war are paid up and their high costs are covered at the greatest of prices, under the weight of which the biggest savings would collapse.

The Arab League oscillates between Egypt's insistence that its decision should submit to the war cries that have begun since the Cairo extraordinary summit conference and the transgression against democracy of decision that has accompanied these war cries; particularly after the United States intimated that the decision should be quick, firm, proceeding in one direction and undebatable, on the one hand, and [it oscillates] between the insistence of the Arabs who act responsibly so that the Arab League decision would not become a purely American decision. Suddenly, the United States embarks on openly rearranging conditions within a course leading to a pact that includes Arab countries, with Israel as its pivot and the United States as its maestro leading and dominating it. In all this, the United States waves the [promise of] funds that would help some to overcome the crises from which some suffer—crises which can no longer be concealed and which would not have existed had it not been for the monopolization of wealth by the rulers here and there at the expense of the peoples.

This is a frightening panorama and a scenario that will lead to nothing but catastrophe and to further decimation of the Arabs into numerous groups, and the widening of the abyss between the great majority and those who lead their people through starvation, humiliation, and impoverishment. This is a panorama which, in form and content, undermines balance, stability, and security. We do not believe any will be saved from this fate.

All this is the result of narrow horizons, blind rage, and fanaticism that makes one lose sight and reason, and carries a foolish movement toward suicide.

This is a panorama to which neither we nor those who fought and struggled and shed their chaste blood will submit. Those strugglers know that the price will be high, but they do not care. For the issue concerns the great ideals by which they repel the horrible dangers and the real catastrophe that will take place if they show any weakness or tiredness.

Hence, our attitude is not directed toward the creation of division and pouring of oil on the fire of the devastating war which will leave nothing alive. Our national and pan-Arab duty is to rally the honorable forces to anticipate the outbreak of war. We are not addressing ourselves to those who have been blinded and blurred by rancor. Ours is a general line in regard to which we make no exceptions nor appeasement.

We shall overlook the abuse and the triviality of spirits which have lost all senses and fallen victim to illusion, lies, and cheap calumnies which talk about the Palestinians of Kuwait and their participation in invading it. We do not believe that the Iraqi Army, which made the United States stand on its head, is in need of this. We also do not believe that we, who are a people with a cause whose principal and basic battlefield is in Palestine, would be other than advocators of a solution that gives priority to peace over all other things. This is our role from which nobody can make us change or deviate, however hard the liers and renegades tried to pressure or blackmail us.

Those who cannot understand and cannot see beyond their noses should read the annals of the Palestine people well and concentrate their eyes on the Palestinian struggle in our occupied Palestine. Then they will come to realize that they have gone far in their humiliating collapse and submission to the American master.

PNC Speaker Calls For 'Jihad Battalions'

JN2810114790 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Oct 90 pp 1,13

["Today's Word" column by His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Assembly [PNC], "Battalions of the Jihad in Defense of Al-Aqsa"]

[Text] The Zionists have carried out endless crimes and plots. The worst was their crime on Monday, 8 October 1990, corresponding to 19 Rabi' al-Awwal 1411 Hegira, when they planned and actually carried out their intrusion into al-Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem via the Dung Gate in order to carry out the crime of laying the cornerstone for their alleged temple. The masses of worshippers at al-Aqsa Mosque confronted the Zionists without any advance preparation and prevented them from carrying out their plan. Some 32 martyrs fell, including the imam of al-Aqsa Mosque, and about 1,000 others were injured, including the Mufti of Jerusalem and the chairman of the Higher Islamic Authority. Whoever observes Zionist plans, the statements of their leaders, and their practices since the 1967 aggression will clearly see that the building of their alleged temple in the present place of the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock is decided in their strategy and that they are only waiting for the right moment to carry it out. Their plans call for destroying the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. This is confirmed and substantiated by the picture of the al-Haram al-Sharif area which the Israeli airline, EL AL, is distributing worldwide. The picture shows the alleged temple in the place of al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. This is clear and cogent proof of their persistence and determination to carry out that crime whenever possible.

O Muslims in the East and the West; O Arabs everywhere; are you going to wait until you are surprised by the actual building of the temple in the place of the two mosques and then shed tears, lament, become emotional, and issue statements? What is the use of that? Will it free your conscience before God, the coming generations, and history?

Is it not time you planned the defense of your rights and holy places, donated funds to this cause, and prepared the al-Aqsa Army to convince the world that carrying out the crime or even attempting it will mean holy war between Muslims and Arabs everywhere on the one hand, and the Zionists and their supporters on the other?

Do you not feel that your first Islamic, Arab, and national duty is to unite and close ranks for the protection of the place at which the great prophet, may the peace and blessings of God be upon him, stayed on the night of his journey [from Mecca] and his ascension [to the heavens], when your prayers were ordained and the principles of your faith were established in beloved Palestine, one of the holiest places of Muslims and Arabs? Or do you want to remain immersed in your trivial differences and disputes in order to please the imperialists and the occupiers and serve their plots, thereby ignoring God Almighty's words: "And fall into no disputes, lest ye lose heart and your power depart; and be patient and preservering; for God is with those who patiently persevere." [Koranic verse]

So come forward and establish the battalions of jihad and the companies of struggle. Rush to training, preparation and determining the weapon you want to use before you miss your opportunity or before it becomes too late. Follow the path of the strong as God said: "Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror into the hearts of the enemies of God, and your enemies, and others besides, whom ye may not know, but whom God doth know. Whatever ye shall spend in the cause of God shall be repaid unto you and yet shall not be treated unjustly." [Koranic verse]

God also said: "And say: Work righteousness. Soon will God observe your work, and His apostle, and the believers." [Koranic verse]

Will you avenge the martyrs and fulfill their hopes? This is what we hope and what all honorable and free men hope.

Fatah Dissidents Threaten U.S. Interests

JN2810080590 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said in Damascus today that the Palestinian problem continues to be the dominant crisis in the Middle East, and that without a solution to this problem, the region will continue to witness political, economic, and military conflagrations and upheavals.

Also in Damascus, the spokesman of the Fatah Uprising [dissident] movement said that the sanctioning of Israelis to open fire on stone throwers in the occupied Palestinian territory constitutes a declaration of war against the people there. The spokesman held the United States responsible for the Israeli terrorist decisions because of Washington's unlimited support for Israel. The spokesman also threatened to deal direct blows to U.S. interests all over the world.

AFP Reports Group Claims Two Knife Attacks

NC3010184090 Paris AFP in English 1700 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Amman, Oct 30 (AFP)—A Palestinian Islamic fundamentalist organization, Islamic Jihad Kata'ib al-Aqsa, claimed responsibility for two knife attacks Tuesday [30 October] on Israelis in Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank.

An anonymous caller to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here, identifying himself as a spokesman for the group, said one of its fighters "attacked with a knife an Israeli police officer, inflicting serious injuries."

Israeli police reported that the victim received light wounds to the chest from a Palestinian assailant in east Jerusalem, who was later arrested.

The caller also said another of its militants at about the same time stabbed and wounded an Israeli civilian guarding a tanker truck near the town hall in the West Bank town of Nabulus.

He said the assailant was later killed by "another Israeli settler."

Israeli police said the attacker struck his victim three times with a knife before being killed by security forces.

Islamic Jihad Kata'ib al-Aqsa first surfaced here last Friday [26 October] when it claimed responsibility for the stabbing deaths in Jerusalem on October 21 of three Israeli Jews.

Egypt

Members of 13 'Terrorist Groups' Arrested

NC3010162390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Oct (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa revealed today that security organs have arrested members of 13 terrorist groups who were planning to carry out acts of sabotage to destabilize Egypt. He said that the arrests were made only in the past two months, prior to the assassination of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub.

He said that these groups came to Egypt via Jordan, Iraq, Tunisia, and Algeria and entered the country through various ports. He added that these groups had supporters in Egypt who included Palestinians, Jordanians of Palestinian origin, and Palestinians residing in Egypt who carry Egyptian passports.

In a statement he delivered today before the Consultative Council's Committee on Foreign, Arab, and Security Affairs, the minister said that the arrival of these groups in Egypt made the security organs think that when Dr. al-Mahjub was assassinated, the perpetrators of that particular incident were foreign elements.

The interior minister said that large amounts of money, amounting to about half a million dollars, were found with these groups. He stressed that he cannot reveal additional information because members of these groups are still being interrogated and investigated.

The minister also revealed that security authorities seized a new hideout in al-Zaqaziq at dawn today and discoverd 40 kg of TNT there. At dawn yesterday, the authorities also seized another hideout containing more than 300 kg of TNT. He added that the terrorists admitted in their confessions that they obtained the TNT more than a year ago from the minefields in some abandoned military zones. He said that he has asked the defense minister to have these mines, which are indicated on military maps, detonated by the Armed Forces.

The interior minister stressed that all the measures taken to apprehend the culprits were in accordance with the law and had the approval of the prosecutor general. He said: We must not lose self-confidence because of the assassination of Dr. al-Mahjub. We must also never worry about security, noting that the security organs are performing their duty in protecting and defending Egypt's security.

'Abd-al-Halim Musa denounced the perpetrators of the crime of Dr. al-Mahjub's assassination and said that they do not belong to Islam because the Islam is a religion of tolerance and love. He stressed that the al-Jihad organization and all the other organizations that resort to extremism and violence to strike at stability in the country will be rooted out.

The interior minister then reviewed Dr. al-Mahjub's assassination, noting that neither Dr. al-Mahjub nor any other specific person was the target. Instead, the object of the assassination was to undermine stability and reassurance in Egypt, as well as Egypt's reputation for security, he said.

He said that investigations are proceeding from the two possibilities that the perpetrators were Egyptians or foreigners. In either case, he said, the agreement is to concentrate on uncovering the group's connections.

He added that matters have begun to become increasingly clear following the departure of the group's religious leader Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman to Sudan, Pakistan, and Iraq. Security organs noticed that the financing of these groups increased. We found $17,000 and 60,000 Egyptian pounds in an apartment in al-Haram. Despite this, we did not ignore the foreign factor.

He added that the picture became completely clear last Friday [26 October] night. The culprits's two strongholds in Kafr (Ka'bish) in Imbabah and in al-Ma'sarah in Hulwan were attacked. Safwat 'Abd-al-Ghani, planner of the operation to assassinate former Interior Minister Zaki Badr, and another person who supervised the assassination of al-Mahjub were arrested.

The interior minister said that evidence and papers explaining the reasons for the failure of the operation to assassinate Zaki Badr were found.

He said that after a summary interrogation, the culprits directed [the security organs] to two apartments in Bulaq and al-Dakrur, where the two motorcycles that were used in al-Mahjub's incident as well as an automatic rifle and a quantity of explosives were seized.

He said that those who were arrested confessed that a meeting was to take place between them and another group near Cairo University at approximately 3:30 [a.m. or p.m. not specified]. He said: I issued orders to prepare ambushes to arrest the culprits.

The arrested terrorists said that they began to shoot at the police officers who were authorized to arrest them. This prompted the policemen to return fire. Two of the terrorists were killed, including the one who killed Brigadier General 'Adil Salim [who was accompanying al-Mahjub]. The other one is a member of the group that assassinated al-Mahjub.

He referred to the photograph that was published in today's papers and said that it has not yet become clear whether or not the people in the picture had participated in al-Mahjub's assassination. He said, however, that these people are wanted for important matters in connection with this operation.

The interior minister criticized some newspapers for the manner in which they dealt with al-Mahjub's assassination, for accusing the police of negligence, and for scoffing at the police.

He emphasized that the security men are working under harsh conditions with limited resources. He called for extending all forms of support to the police to maintain Egypt's security and stability.

He said that strict security measures have been taken regarding all those coming from abroad and that the status of all residents of various nationalities will be reconsidered.

He indicated that Dr. Majdi al-Safati, who has been accused and is wanted, is in Egypt and will be arrested.

He noted that the law allows Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, religious leader of the groups, or any citizen, to depart overseas at any time.

The interior minister called on all the institutions to instill sound ideas in the minds of those youths who are deluded by these groups. He also called on the various parties to cooperate with government institutions in this respect.

Concerning the coming People's Assembly elections, the interior minister underlined that the police force is completely neutral, that this force is not interested in favoring certain candidates, and that it is eager to prevent any foul play in the elections.

The interior minister said that the law provides guarantees for the fairness of the elections and the electoral campaign, and that the law will be upheld for all candidates. He added that the election results will be announced in the governorates and not at the Interior Ministry. The judges in charge of the public polling centers will announce the returns, he added.

The interior minister said the opposition parties have been invited to participate in the elections, but they made certain demands. We simply cannot close a certain constituency to all but a single candidate of a certain party, he noted.

The interior minister said that President Mubarak has underlined that all the candidates are equal and that National Democratic Party [NDP] lists of candidates are optional in the sense that other NDP members are entitled to contest the elections on their own initiative.

The interior minister said that he gave instructions that as soon as candidates register they can start using their electoral insignia.

Minister Confirms Arrest of Bus Attackers

NC3010150190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1433 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Oct (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has confirmed that security forces have arrested a number of people who were involved in the February attack on an Israeli tourist bus on the Cairo-Alexandria road.

The minister said that the weapons the culprits used to carry out their crime were also seized. He noted that it is not in the interest of the case to reveal details at present and that the security forces will reveal all the details of this criminal act as soon as all elements have been arrested.

Ethiopian President Mengistu Holds Talks

Information Minister Comments

NC3010130290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1151 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Oct (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that the talks held between President Husni Mubarak and Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile-Mariam dealt with all the African topics, the developments in the Gulf crisis resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and bilateral ties.

Minister al-Sharif said that the two presidents will resume their talks in a session this evening and that a joint communique on the visit will be issued tomorrow morning at the end of the third and last round of talks to be held at the presidential palace in al-Qubbah. The communique will define the two countries' stands on all the political issues at the African, Arab, and international levels as well as bilateral economic issues.

It is worth mentioning that today's talks lasted for approximately two and half hours.

Holds Talks With Mubarak

NC3010202190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1942 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile-Mariam held a session of talks this evening. The talks dealt with the latest developments in the Middle East, current African issues, border problems, and foreign debts.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC3110111890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 31 Oct (MENA)—Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile-Mariam left Cairo this morning after a one-day visit to Egypt. The official farewell ceremony was held at the Presidential Palace following a 90-minute session of talks between the two presidents.

Presidents Mubarak and Mengistu stood at the palace grounds where a military band played the Ethiopian and Egyptian national anthems. The Ethiopian president then shook hands with his well-wishers, who included the prime minister, the speaker of the consultative council, the deputy prime minister for planning, the ministers, the chief of staff, the commanders of the main branches of the Armed Forces, and the members of the

Ethiopian Embassy in Cairo. Two children presented bouquets of flowers to the two presidents, who then inspected an honor guard.

Mubarak Comments on Arab Summit Proposal

NC3110120990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 31 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today reiterated Egypt's insistence on the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy [to Kuwait] within the framework of a peaceful solution to the current Gulf crisis.

President Mubarak made statements to journalists following an official farewell ceremony for Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile-Mariam at the presidential headquarters in Heliopolis.

President Mubarak commented on Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's recent proposal that the Arab nation should adopt a peaceful solution and hold an Arab summit to resolve the Gulf crisis. He said: I am not aware of the full content of what the Soviet president said on this matter. However, the Arab countries held a summit on 10 August but did not reach any conclusion. The Arab countries have tried and are still trying.

He added: If these proposals advocate a peaceful solution, all of us are also seeking a peaceful solution. All countries, be they large or big, Arab, Western, or American, seek a peaceful solution to avoid bloodshed and also to avoid the bloodshed of the fraternal Arab people. This is everyone's view, but at the same time we back the legitimacy.

He went on: If there is a call for an Arab summit, we would like to ask: Has the Soviet mediator been able to reach a specific conclusion so we may hold an Arab summit to discuss a specific issue? So far we have not been told of such a thing.

President Mubarak pointed out: If we are to call for an Arab summit in the absence of a clear vision, such a summit will be one of vituperations, and we reject a vituperative summit. We are, however, in favor of a solution which includes our insistence on the withdrawal and legitimacy.

President Mubarak was asked to comment on the negative effect of the time factor on any issue, the current consultations in the arena, and their effect on Iraq's invasion of Kuwait now that three months have passed since the crisis began. He replied: We should not be afraid that this cause will die because it is the cause of a people, an Arab people occupied by an Arab country.

He said: I believe that the issue is alive and will not die. I hope our brothers in Iraq fully understand that the situation is very dangerous and might explode at any time. We do not want this explosion, but all we ask and wish is that Iraq realistically assess the situation.

He added: I have previously warned of the serious situation at the start of this operation, and called for a solution as I foresaw the existing situation. We should not play down the international force currently there. This force poses a great danger to Iraq. He went on: The whole region will suffer massive damage. We hope Iraq will realize this and help in the withdrawal and restoration of legitimacy, after which we would begin negotiations to discuss the problems between Kuwait and Iraq.

President Mubarak was asked that if the international and Arab demands are clear and specific—a complete withdrawal from Kuwait and reinstatement of legitimacy—then why is so much time wasted in consultations. He answered: This consultation is taking place because Iraq does not want to withdraw. Should Iraq agree on the withdrawal and restoration of legitimacy, then there will be no need for consultation. There are several countries conducting consultations and exerting efforts for a peaceful solution, and there are other unimportant countries that want to appear in the arena. Also, there are countries holding consultations here and there without a specific goal, while other countries are actually seeking solutions.

He said: Solutions do not come overnight. When Iraq completely relinquished a territory to Iran as if it had not gone to war, I believe that put Iraq in a difficult situation. We are willing to help Iraq, but on the condition that it agrees on withdrawal and the restoration of legitimacy.

Replying to a question on the departure to Saudi Arabia this morning of Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Mubarak said that consultation with Saudi Arabia is under way in various fields.

The Ethiopian president, following the farewell ceremony, affirmed the deep ties between the two countries and said: We and President Mubarak are brothers. Egypt and Ethiopia and their peoples have been closely associated for a long time.

He expressed admiration for the steps Egypt has taken regarding the regrettable Gulf crisis and said: Our stand is identical with Egypt's.

Chief Editor Criticizes Soviet Gulf Proposal

NC3110081990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0222 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 31 Oct (MENA)—Ibrahim Nafi', AL-AHRAM's chief editor, has criticized Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal to hold an Arab meeting and find an Arab means to solve the Gulf crisis. With this proposal, Nafi' says, the Soviet Union attempts to cover the failure of Soviet envoy Primakov's talks in Baghdad, to absolve itself of responsibility for a solution, and to cast all the blame on new parties that have no key to the solution.

In an article entitled "A Solution in the Soviet Way," Nafi' notes that, after the past three months' developments and escalation in the region, the Soviet proposal is in fact merely a call for the return to square one in the chess game President Saddam Husayn is playing with the whole world, thus achieving Iraq's aim of playing for time, procrastinating, and delaying the solution, out of its belief that time is in its favor.

In his article in Wednesday's [31 October] edition of AL-AHRAM, Nafi' says: We are not asking the Soviet Union to admit its failure, but only urging it not to come at us with statements and vague initiatives unwittingly serving Saddam Husayn and prolonging the occupation of Kuwait.

He pointed out that, instead, the Soviet Union should have utilized the lessons and the conclusions drawn from its talks with Saddam Husayn to increase the international pressure on him to force him to withdraw and free the hostages, and to insist on not allowing him to receive any reward for his aggression against an independent Arab country and member of the United Nations; otherwise, the logic of the jungle will prevail in all parts of the globe.

Nafi' noted in his article that Egypt was the first Arab and international party to raise the slogan of the Arab solution and call for a Arab minisummit in Jeddah to resolve the crisis. He said that Iraq's intransigence in refusing to negotiate the withdrawal and restoration of legitimacy in principle terminated the idea of this summit. Then, he added, Egypt called for an expanded Arab summit, at which all were unanimous in condemning the Iraqi invasion, although some differed about the foreign military presence in the region. The Iraqi delegation to the conference did not exhibit any resilience and readiness to negotiate the concept of withdrawal.

He asks: What is the goal of the suggested Arab summit, and what can this summit do at a time when the entire world has failed to persuade Saddam Husayn to pull out of Kuwait and the drums of war beat in the region without [Saddam's] moving a hair's breadth from his position? Can the Arab summit accomplish what international pressure, the stringent international sanctions, and the multinational military presence in the region have failed to achieve? What will be the conditions Saddam Husayn will impose on the Arab summit to accept what the whole international community has refused to accept?

Nafi' remarked that the Arab summit conference in Cairo issued resolutions compatible with the UN Security Council resolutions in preserving international legitimacy, and issued other resolutions compatible with Arab legitimacy and the Arab League charter. He asks: Then what is required of the proposed Arab summit? Is it required to give a phoney legitimacy to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait? Is the Soviet Union, a superpower, asking us to pressure Kuwait to relinquish part of its territory?

Concluding his article, Ibrahim Nafi' notes that the only practical solution to ending the Gulf crisis without bloodshed is through the required Arab initiative coming from Saddam Husayn himself, not from any other Arab party. He [Saddam] should announce the start of the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and call for an Arab summit to reach an understandng in the conflict. Then, Nafi' says, a summit would immediately convene, take the initiative from Saddam, pursue it, and decide to send Arab forces to replace the withdrawing Iraqi forces. Afterward, the summit would put forth the subject of the fundamental dispute for discussion and reach Arab solutions satisfactory to all parties.

Conference 'Unrealistic' Before Crisis Solved

JN2210193990 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 20 Oct 90 p 6

[Editorial: "A Lesson From Tunis"]

[Text] The Arab League Council has unanimously condemned the Israeli aggression on the al-Aqsa Mosque, and yet differences over the Gulf crisis cast their shadows over the emergency session debates and over formulating the right resolution. According to news agency reports, the debates were full of recriminations among the chief delegates of Kuwait and Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the Yemen, and Syria and the PLO, with some delegations even walking out in protest.

Moved by its pan-Arab responsibilities, Cairo played a conciliatory role. The Arab League has come to the firm conclusion that it would be in error to establish a link between the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian question. Reasons: The first is an intra-Arab concern that arose from the Iraqi regime's attack against the sisterly Arab state of Kuwait. The second is the central Arab issue pitting the Arabs against Israel, whose solution requires Arab solidarity, sustained coordination, a grasp of regional and global changes, skilled handling of an emerging new world order, and the mobilization of Arab forces and energies—an unattainable proposition before a resolution of the Gulf crisis, Iraqi withdrawal, and reinstitution of legitimacy to Kuwait.

As they search for a solution to the Gulf crisis involving minimum losses, the Arabs are well advised to heed this lesson. All the more so since the specter of bankruptcy now hovers over Iraq, with Saddam Husayn offering to sell his oil at sharply reduced prices. Some nations have come up with proposals for a resolution of the Middle East crisis, and there has been fresh talk of convening the international conference with the participation of all the parties concerned. But these proposals remain unrealistic as long as the Arab world fails to present to the world a united, solid front—something that will remain elusive with the Gulf crisis still unresolved. That is the lesson to be learned from the emergency Arab League conference debates in Tunis.

Paper Urges Arab League To Help Rebuild Lebanon

JN2610184890 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
22 Oct 90 p 5

[Editorial: "So That Lebanon Would Overcome All Its Ills"]

[Text] It is true that the world is now preoccupied with following up on the series of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, in spite of the length of this series and the myriad tragedies it has touched off. Everyone is looking forward to seeing the logical denouement of this bloody drama, which will come either through the downfall of the hero or his surrender to security forces. Yet, their deep preoccupation with this realistic drama, which has preoccupied audiences of East and West, should not make the Arabs oblivious to rendering urgent help to another Arab country which has suffered tribulations no less ugly than those Kuwait is experiencing today at the hands of Arab forces led by a demented ruler, so that it will not drown anew in the abyss.

Now that the legitimate authority has removed a major obstacle to the restoration of peace in Lebanon—after the surrender of General 'Awn and his taking refuge in the French Embassy—Lebanon still has a long, rugged road ahead until its government can spread its sovereignty and the rule of law over all its lands. After that, we shall have time to deal with two major issues that should be conclusively resolved before paving the way for the greatest mission; namely, rebuilding the country and its economy, destroyed by a profitless war that has lasted for 15 years. These two issues are: disbanding all the militias and dispossessing them of all the arms which they have stockpiled during the long years of war; and, liberating southern Lebanon from Israeli occupation and its traitorous and mercenary collaborators.

In these decisive moments in the history of Lebanon, all Arab forces that are eager to maintain the peace of this Arab country and deliver it from all the remnants of the horrible years it has witnessed, and which seek to consolidate the confidence of citizens in the return of safety and the rule of law, should cooperate to render every possible assistance requested by the legitimate government to enhance its power and support the independence of the country as soon as possible, and to close all the gaps through which chaos can penetrate.

The Arab League should undertake to purge the Lebanese soil of all aliens who have played a dangerous role in rendering the country a shambles and who have capitalized on the bloody climate that has prevailed the country from the mid-seventies onward. The Arab League should also undertake to liberate southern Lebanon after removing the alleged Israeli security zone invented by Tel Aviv to occupy a precious part of Lebanon.

Algerian Foreign Minister Makes One-Day Visit

Arrives With Message for Mubarak

NC2710220690 Cairo MENA in English 2144 GMT
27 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, Oct. 27 (MENA)—Algerian minister of foreign affairs Sid Ahmed Ghazali arrived here tonight on one-day visit to Egypt.

Ghazali said on arrival he is entrusted with a message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to President Husni Mubarak on the Gulf crisis and the current situation in the Arab world.

The Algerian foreign minister was welcomed at the airport by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy premier and foreign minister and Mohamed Abdel Hamid Adjali, Algerian ambassador here.

Holds Talks With 'Abd-al-Majid

NC2810115590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1119 GMT
28 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 28 Oct (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met this morning with Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali, who is currently visiting Cairo.

Following their 90-minute meeting, the Algerian foreign minister said that he and Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid conducted a further examination of the same topics he and President Mubarak had discussed this morning.

The Algerian foreign minister said that the Egyptian-Algerian joint committee will meet in Cairo before the end of the year.

Hands Message to Mubarak

NC2810104290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0852 GMT
28 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 28 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali in the Presidential Office this morning. The Algerian official handed President Mubarak a message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. Also attending the meeting were Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Mohamed Adjali, Algerian ambassador in Cairo.

Following the approximately one-hour-long meeting, Ghazali expressed his thanks to President Mubarak for giving him the opportunity to meet with him and deliver a message from his brother President Bendjedid. He stressed that Egypt and Algeria are linked by bonds of amity, appreciation, and respect. He said that President Bendjedid's message to President Mubarak deals with the dangerous developments and threats in the Arab world at this time. He said that in view of the nature of relations between the two countries and governments, consultations and cooperation are needed to make a sincere contribution to safeguarding Arab security and to respecting international legitimacy within the context of preserving Arab and international interests.

Asked about a recent report that Algeria is opposed to the transfer of the Arab League headquarters to Cairo, Ghazali said that this report is false and that this issue was not discussed with President Mubarak. He said that his country put forward a proposal on behalf of the Arab Maghreb Union that does not rescind the Arab League resolution to return the Arab League General Secretariat to its original headquarters in Cairo. The proposal, however, is designed to achieve some flexibility in implementing the transfer resolution. He noted that the resolution to transfer the Arab League to Cairo is well known, was adopted at the Arab League Council meeting at the foreign ministerial level held in Baghdad in March, and was reemphasized at the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo on 10 September.

Asked whether Algeria is committed to the resolution, Ghazali said: Of course. Algeria's position supports this resolution. Anyway, this topic was not discussed with President Mubarak, and all that we propose is flexibility in implementing the resolution.

Concludes Visit, Leaves Cairo

NC2810211590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1940 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 28 Oct (MENA)—Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali left Cairo this evening after a one-day visit during which he delivered a message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to President Husni Mubarak dealing with the current Arab situation.

In a statement before he left, Ghazali described Egyptian-Algerian relations as fraternal and based on mutual respect. He said that his visit was a good opportunity to meet with President Mubarak. He added: Through these meetings we seek to consult and cooperate in order to contribute positively toward a peaceful solution of the Gulf crisis.

Regarding Soviet envoy Primakov's mission, the Algerian foreign minister said that the Soviet Union is striving to find a peaceful solution for the Gulf crisis and to avoid a military solution; this is something we all are doing.

Senegalese Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Delivers Message to Mubarak

NC2610191090 Cairo MENA in English 1822 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, Oct. 26 (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received here tonight Senegalese Foreign Minister Seydina Oumar Sy, who delivered a message to the president from President Abdou Diouf of Senegal. The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Butrus Ghali and Senegalese ambassador here, Mohammed Shams al-Din Ndiaye.

Views Mubarak Meeting, Summit

NC2610202190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1946 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—Senegalese Foreign Minister Seydina Oumar Sy stated following his meeting this evening with President Husni Mubarak that he had handed Mubarak a message from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. He noted that the two presidents will meet on 3 November during the inauguration of the international university in Alexandria.

The Senegalese official said that during the meeting, President Mubarak expressed his appreciation to Senegal and its people. He affirmed that the Government of Senegal is interested in promoting ties between Cairo and Dakar to the benefit of the two peoples.

He pointed out that Egypt and Senegal share identical views on the Gulf crisis. He added: We condemn the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, do not accept Iraq's annexation of Kuwait, and demand the Iraqi troops' withdrawal and the return of legitimate rule to Kuwait. He stressed that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait constitutes a violation of international law, which is why it was the subject of condemnation by the entire world community, adding that the international mobilization that followed the invasion was in defense of the law.

The Senegalese minister noted that the Gulf crisis will lead the topics on the agenda of the Islamic summit to be held in Dakar in January. He hoped that this summit will serve as one of reconciliation among the Islamic states and not one of inter-Islamic division as a result of the Gulf crisis.

He added: When Senegal chairs the Islamic conference in January, it does not want its capital to be the capital of Islamic division, but of reconciliation. He noted that despite the importance of the Gulf crisis, this conference must study other issues. As we can see, the present time is fraught with great dangers because all attention is focused on one problem, he concluded.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC2810073390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 28 Oct (MENA)—Senegalese Foreign Minister Oumar Sy left Cairo this morning after a four-day visit to Egypt during which he conveyed a message to President Husni Mubarak from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. The Senegalese foreign minister also held talks with Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, on bilateral ties and issues of mutual interest. In a statement prior to his departure, he stressed the need for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait and for the legitimate authority to be restored. He said that the policy of seizing hostages is unacceptable.

'Abd-al-Majid, Al-Baz Leave for Saudi Arabia

NC3110121890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1133 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, accompanied by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, foreign ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, left Cairo at noon today for a one-day visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid is scheduled to attend a meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Mubarak Receives Arab League Official Al-As'ad

NC3110092690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received Arab League Acting Secretary General As'ad al-As'ad at the presidential office this morning. Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, attended the meeting.

Following the approximately one-hour meeting, 'Abd-al-Majid welcomed the Arab League acting secretary general, who has come to Cairo to initiate his work at the Arab League's permanent headquarters. He described the transfer of the Arab League headquarters to Cairo with the start of the acting secretary general's work at the permanent headquarters as a historical event.

For his part, al-As'ad said he listened to the directives of President Husni Mubarak, who honored him by receiving him today. He noted that the transfer of the Arab League Secretariat has been effected according to Arab resolutions. He said that work has already begun, while the process of the secretariat's transfer will be completed later. He added that measures are under way to settle the rights of the employees and to continue the process of the Arab League's final transfer within the deadline set by the League Council.

He thanked fraternal Tunisia for its hospitality in hosting the League for eleven years and hoped that the Arab League in Cairo will be the league of all Arabs.

Mubarak Sends Message to Mitterrand on Gulf

NC2810162990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1429 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 28 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has sent a written message to French President Francois Mitterrand. The message deals with current developments in all aspects of the Gulf crisis.

'Abd-al-Majid Supports EC Statement on Gulf

NC2910134390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today expressed Egypt's support for the EC summit resolutions passed in Rome yesterday. These resolutions stressed the need for the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, the restoration of the legitimate government, and support for the Security Council resolutions on this issue. 'Abd-al-Majid also emphasized Egypt's continued commitment to efforts to reach a just settlement to the Palestinian problem, a settlement that will enable the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination.

South Korean Deputy Minister Interviewed

NC3110110390 Cairo MENA in English 0920 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, Oct. 31—(MENA)—The deputy foreign minister of South Korea characterized as "useful and fruitful" his talks with the Egyptian officials during his three-day visit which he wound up earlier today.

The discussions involved the Korean financial aid programme to Egypt which amounts to dollar 30 million. Half of this sum is provided as grants and the other half as loans from the economic copperation fund with Egypt. The loans are payable over twenty years with five years' period of grace and carries an interest rate of 3.5 per cent, the deputy minister told MENA before his departure.

Despite the fact that the Republic of Korea is a developing country, it attempts modestly to contribute to making up for Egypt's losses incurred as a result of the Gulf criis, he said.

The deputy minister further said that his talks also dwelt on ways and means to bolster relations between his country and Egypt especially with the private sector and in the establishment of joint development projects. There is a number of Korean firms working at present in the Middle East and particularly in Egypt which enjoys an excellent strategic economic position and boasts of its manpower, he said.

The talks also explored the possibility of raising diplomatic representation between the two countries from a consul's level to an ambassadorial one with a view to expanding scopes of cooperation. This helps provide economic protection for the workers of both countries in one another. [sentence as received] Such a protection is usually guaranteed through the embassies, he added.

The South Korean deputy foreign minister said that he discussed with Egyptian officials the developments of the Gulf situation and the effect of the crisis on the region from the strategic point of view.

He expressed his country's backing for Egypt's stance towards the Gulf crisis and its support for the resolutions of the Security Council imposing economic sanctions on Iraq as well as for efforts exerted by Egypt and the other Arab states to lay out foundations for peace in the region, he said.

Korea, being far from the region, has to judge on the events through the information and news reaching her indirectly via newspapers and news agencies. "It is therefore difficult for us to estimate the options, for either war or peace, and thus comes our visit to the area as a fact-finding one. [quotation marks as received]

He expressed conviction of the significance of peace in the region for the sake of world interest in general as far as Korea is concerned he added, the countries of the area absorb 98 per cent of its own exports. In case the situation therein persists for a further year, Korea will be losing about 2.5 per cent of its national income. The rise in oil prices has its impact on the country's economy with its own oil bill reaching dollar 65 million, the Korean official said.

Paper Praises Outcome of Mubarak's Gulf Tour

JN2810105990 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 26 Oct 90 p 3

[Editorial: "A Tour for the Good of Egypt and the Arabs"]

[Text] We can say that this shuttle [makkukiyah] tour by President Mubarak of a number of fraternal Arab countries is viewed as one of Egypt's most important politic moves abroad recently because its results will prove that it was a tour for the good of Egypt and the entire Arab nation.

One of the goals of the tour set by President Mubarak in his capacity as the commander in chief of the Armed Forces was to meet with the brave sons of Egypt, who responded to the call of duty and left for Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. There, the president reassured himself of the high morale in the field and full combat preparedness. He also assured the sons that the homeland harbors warm feelings toward them and that the nation supports their role.

Another goal of the tour was President Mubarak's consultations with the region's leaders within the framework of the continued coordination among brothers in order to promote all spheres of bilateral cooperation and to mobilize all energies and potentials to achieve the principal goal; namely, the liberation of the State of Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate authority in it. We believe that Mubarak's talks with the region's leaders indicate identical views on ways to end this temporary ordeal and that Egypt and the fraternal Arab countries want to provide an opportunity to achieve a peaceful solution that can avert the dangers of a military confrontation, providing that such a solution is based on the international and Arab summit resolutions.

What is also gratifying is the growing Arab support for Egypt's courageous position based on firm principles emanating from genuine Arab ethics and values, which reject any bargains or maneuvers.

The Gulf crisis, despite all its negative impact on joint Arab action, has shown positively that Egypt's strength is not only a shield for defending the homeland, but also a strong shield for protecting the Arab nation when necessary.

Finally we hope, as President Mubarak put it, that Iraq will withdraw and the legitimate government will return without the need for bloodshed. This is not impossible; it is easy and can be decided by one person, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, if he is prepared to correct the mistake and save his people and nation from the disasters of an armed clash that we do not want.

King Husayn's Remarks to U.S. Paper Examined

JN2810203090 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 25 Oct 90 p 7

["Just an Opinion" column by Salah Muntasir: Our Just Deserts From Saddam!]

[Text] In statements to THE NEW YORK TIMES, King Husayn gave his opinion that had the Arab League stopped short of denouncing President Saddam Husayn's action immediately after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the crisis might have been contained. Saddam had insisted on the Arab League's not issuing a denunciation. King Husayn went on to single out President Husni Mubarak as the one he felt most let down by.

Some people have been smugly blaming all that has occurred on this Arab League resolution condemning the Iraqi invasion, arguing that Saddam Husayn would have otherwise withdrawn from Kuwait—thereby obviating the need to call in foreign forces.

Nothing can be more naive and strange. It only goes to demonstrate the godlike aura President Saddam Husayn has developed around himself. Having grabbed Kuwait, what did he expect Egypt to do? Perhaps he wanted Egypt to award him the Nobel Prize, or the Arab League Council to cable its congratulations and support. Or maybe he would have liked Egypt to impress on all the Arab states the need to appeal to the knight of the Arabs and the Arab hero, who had threatened to incinerate half of Israel, to settle for half of Kuwait, and to withdraw from the other half. Had this happened, as King Husayn's remarks seem to suggest, Saddam Husayn's anger would not have been aroused, nor the Jordanian monarch felt so embittered with President Husni Mubarak. Further, King Husayn would not have charged that President Mubarak condemned the Iraqi invasion and encouraged other Arabs to do likewise to get even with Iraq for having led the campaign to isolate Egypt back in 1979.

King Husayn chooses to forget that if Egypt had really wanted to get even with Saddam Husayn, it would have compromised his position during the war with Iran. Let the king ask his Iraqi friend who it was that gave him military support when he most needed it, helped him acquire his vaunted missiles, and drew for him the battle plan for al-Faw, after he had made several bungled attempts to recapture it. Let King Husayn ask Saddam who it was that facilitated the travel of Egyptians to Iraq, and then remind him how the Iraqi Army would have fared had not been for these and their contributions during the war effort. But an ingrate like Saddam will be an ingrate! If he has hijacked and swallowed Kuwait, what else can we expect from him, or, for that matter, from King Husayn?

Commentary on French-Soviet Snub of Iraq

NC3010143290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Commentary by Ahmad Sha'ban: The Gulf Crisis Between the Possibilities of a Peaceful Solution and Other Options]

[Text] From the start of the Iraqi-created Gulf crisis, the possibilities of its solution have been swinging from one option to another, between the peaceful solution which the Arabs and the world want and are positively seeking to bring about, and the possibility of being forced into the military option.

The past few days saw an intensive international effort that principally focused on the search for a peaceful solution in which the Soviet Union and France have played the major role. This effort has, for all appearances, elicited Iraqi statements which have led some people to believe that they indicate a change in Iraq's stand and that it might comply with the international will. But matters are once more getting more complicated as a result of Iraq's noncompliance with international efforts, the last of which was the news reports about the failure of the talks that Primakov, Soviet President Gorbachev's envoy to Iraq, held with the Iraqi president. Even though the Soviet envoy did not announce this officially, all reports confirm that the outcome of the talks was disappointing.

In view of this stand, we find ourselves once again perplexed with the Iraqi stands. But one thing is evident: Iraq is still working to create a split in the international ranks, or that is what it believes it is doing, in order to reduce the international consensus against it and to achieve any gain or loot from its invasion and occupation of Kuwait and seizure of that country's resources. One thing is certain. All these attempts are doomed to failure. Iraq took one measure toward France by allowing all of its nationals to leave Iraq as an goodwill gesture toward France. Naturally, Baghdad was hoping for a different French stand or at least a mitigation of its stand toward Iraq. Iraq also thought that this decision would result in a less vehement stand in the French-Soviet summit. But Iraq's hopes were in vain. The French and Soviet sides stressed their full support for the international resolutions that call for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

Those who have been following the Gulf crisis since 2 August note that the Iraqi president is trying to escape through any gap that allows him to achieve some gains. The dispatch of the Soviet envoy to Baghdad twice in one week, the delay in issuing the Security Council resolution that Iraq must pay compensation to Kuwait, and Soviet President Gorbachev's underlining of the need to exert utmost efforts for a peaceful solution and his call for finding an Arab solution for the crisis have made the Iraqi president think that he can escape and achieve gains. But the reply came very quickly in the statements of the French and Soviet presidents, and in the adoption of the Security Council resolution that requires it to pay compensation to Kuwait and to the other countries that have been affected by its invasion of Kuwait.

We say that Iraq must ponder the crisis logically. It must abandon all the failed methods it has used to obtain something, and be true to itself in the search for a peaceful solution in light of the statements made by Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, who said that he is still hopeful of reaching a diplomatic solution and in light of what the Iraqi president himself said in his interview with Japanese television about his readiness for a dialogue. Iraq must work seriously with the United Nations in the latter's new endeavor to send a UN envoy to discuss the issue of releasing the hostages detained in Iraq and complying with this endeavor. It must then follow it with other decisions that comply with the international and Arab wish to end the crisis peacefully. Anything else would be a futile diversion. Let Iraq try just for once to accept the UN resolutions which would be in its interest and that of the Iraqi people, who are beginning to grumble and suffer from the effects of the siege on Iraq. Thus the Iraqi ruler would escape his people's retribution and that of the entire international community.

U.S. Urged To Make Israel Stop Settlement

JN2910122290 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 25 Oct 90 p 7

[Editorial: "The United States, Israel, and Colonization"]

[Text] The issue of the Jewish immigration to and settlement in the occupied Arab territories is an explosive one which has always provoked the Arab citizens, the real owners of the land, and proved Israel's intransigence and its refusal to respond to the peace call. One day before the holy al-Aqsa massacre, Prime Minister Shamir announced that a plan had been prepared to establish a Jewish residential quarter in Arab Jerusalem. The matter was expected to take a different course after the ugly massacre, but the Israeli Government has not halted its settlement plans to build quarters for Jews not only in Arab Jerusalem, but also in the rest of the Arab cities and territories in the occupied West Bank. What is annoying is that this provocative Israeli announcement followed the Shamir government's pledge to the United States that it would not use the $400 million which the United States has granted to Israel, to build settlements or houses in the occupied Arab territories, a pledge which was published by the Bush administration so that its position would not be misunderstood.

Thus, Israel proves every day that it will continue to ignore the international order, the UN resolutions, and its clear pledges to its close supporter, the United States itself, which we believe, has an opportunity to pressure Israel by halting the transfer of the $400 million until it makes sure that the Shamir government has completely halted its settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories.

Daily Praises U.S. Vote Against Israel

NC2910100390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 29 Oct (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR praises the position recently adopted by President George Bush's administration of voting for the UN Security Council resolution which condemns the Israeli occupation forces' 8 October crime against the Palestinian citizens at al-Aqsa Mosque. In today's editorial, the paper says that the Tel Aviv leaders thought that no one would notice the massacres they commit in the occupied Palestinian territories as the world focuses its attention on the volatile situation in the Gulf, which threatens of an eruption any time because of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. They thought that the United States would, as usual, use the veto to obstruct any Security Council resolution unacceptable to Israel.

AL-AKHBAR emphasized that the U.S. Administration's position adopted against Israel is brave. The paper expresses hope that this stand will continue even after the situation in the Gulf region reverts to normal and that the United States will adhere to it in the future to regain its credibility that has been shaken because of its long-standing support for the Tel Aviv rulers.

AL-AKHBAR says that, when he decided to confront the Iraqi crime of occupying Kuwait, President Bush won international support that has not been given to any other U.S. President. Moreover, Washington's voting for the resolution condemning Israel has enhanced the world's appreciation of his policy and courageous positions. Concluding its editorial, AL-AKHBAR says that all we hope is that President Bush will adhere to this policy to prove to the world that he stands by right and justice and by the protection of peoples, even if the aggressor is an ally that has evaded punishment no matter what aggression it has committed.

Israel's Alleged 'Fear' of U.N. Mission Viewed

JN2210192290 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 21 Oct 90 p 5

[Report by Amirah Hasan from Jerusalem: "Israel Fears the International Mission Because it Fears the World Might Look at Jerusalem as an Occupied Territory"]

[Text] There is evidence that the recent Jerusalem massacre was preplanned by Israel; perhaps the Israeli rightist Government wants to capitalize on the Gulf crisis to liquidate the intifadah. The outcome of this massacre, however, has proven this to be a mere illusion. This is because the massacre has touched off greater Palestinian potential to continue and escalate the intifadah. Israel's fear now is that the world might look at east Jerusalem as an occupied Arab territory and not as Israel's eternal capital as they claim—considering that both Labor and Likud Parties see eye to eye on this claim.

The rightist Israeli Government began a short while ago to transform Arab Jerusalem into a center to accommodate thousands of Jewish immigrants, especially Soviets. It has also drawn up plans to set up six new quarters on the basis of building 5,000 apartments yearly in the Arab sector of Jerusalem. It has also provided extensive facilities to entrepreneurs to complete this process. Construction and Housing Minister Sharon declared that Israel has not made a commitment not to settle Soviet Jews in united Jerusalem, which they consider the capital of the Jewish state, and that Israel is to be counted out of any resolutions that might be adopted by the Security Council against this consideration.

Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek joined Sharon in organizing a worldwide campaign to sell new apartments in Arab Jerusalem to world Jews everywhere, provided that they afterwards rent them to Soviet Jews who immigrate to Israel. Some 154,000 Soviet Jews have arrived in Israel in the last ten months. The flood of Soviet Jews has not come to an end; it is growing. Because of the housing crisis and the high cost of rent in Jerusalem—which amounts to more than $500 for an apartment—established Jews have resorted to living in tents and renting their apartments to newly-arrived Jews. As usual, Sharon has begun to exploit this situation by tempting those who live in tents to settle in the West Bank and Gaza. And indeed, some 40 families who lived in tents were deported to Adam settlement, seven km north of Jerusalem. There is a project to settle another 40 families in the same spot. Israel, of course, has rejected that the status of Jerusalem, as a capital of Israel, as the subject of any negotiation in the future. Moreover, it is using all resources available to it to Judaize Arab Jerusalem; perhaps the recent massacre was part of this scheme of Judaization.

Arab and world media have highlighted the Gulf crisis and have been oblivious to the Palestine question; and this has encouraged Israel to press ahead with its schemes, and even to step up settlement activities whenever possible.

Also, the absence of any kind of international intervention to protect Palestinian civilians has further encouraged Israel, particularly considering what happened because of the U.S. veto following the Rishon LeZiyyon carnage at the beginning of last summer, whose victims were more than nine Palestinian workers. Israel, undoubtedly, had hoped for another U.S. veto this time. This, however, did not happen, and the Security Council resolved to dispatch a fact-finding mission to investigate the recent Jerusalem massacre. Israel fears that recognition of this international mission might be a prelude to further concessions that would infringe upon the status of Jerusalem, from its standpoint. For recognizing the mission will have to be followed by recognizing the results of the investigation that the mission will provide. It will also entail an indirect recognition that Jerusalem is not the capital of Israel, and that it is—whether they like it or not—an occupied Arab territory. Because of the Israeli rejection, Perez de Cuellar has told the Security Council that the mission will not be dispatched.

If Israel, according to its government, is investigating this massacre, we say that this investigation is utterly worthless. For Shamir has announced that the Israeli investigation committee does not intend to infringe on the police or the IDF, to whom the Israeli people owe much.

On the other hand, Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories have declared, through Ghassan Khatib, that they view the condemnation resolution as insufficient. They said, however, they would cooperate to the best of their ability with the international fact-finding mission in the hope that it would be a prelude after which the Security Council will seek to adopt deterrent measures against Israel.

In light of this tense climate, the racist Israeli right wing, which touched off the recent massacre, demands the closure of the al-Aqsa Mosque and the expulsion of Palestinians from Jerusalem, even from the West Bank and Gaza. Israel, however, will not be able to implement these measures unless this happens over a river of Palestinian blood, which is prepared to sacrifice for its national and religious sanctities until the end.

NPUG To Run in People's Assembly Elections

JN2810155590 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic
24 Oct 90 p 1

[Statement issued by the General Secretariat of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party, NPUG, on 20 October]

[Text] After discussing participation in the People's Assembly elections and becoming acquainted with the opinions of the opposition parties, the General Secretariat believes that the government's intransigence and refusal to respond to the demands of the opposition parties and other political forces—as well as many professional associations, judges' and university lecturers' societies, and a large number of leading intellectuals—obstructs the possibility of bringing about the democratic transformation of the society, and opens the road, just as we have warned, to the growth of trends of extremism and violence as the means to bring about change.

Out of belief in national responsibility, and despite our radical disagreement with the ruling party's policies, we do not approve of an election boycott because such a decision would imply that all parties have given up on the possibility of bringing about democratic transformation of society under political pluralism and alternation of power through the ballot box.

We believe that the current political pluralism is only formal because of the restrictions imposed by ill-reputed legislation, including the new law issued by decision of the president of the Republic. We believe that the alternation of power requires a broad and continuous mass struggle.

Therefore, the General Secretariat has decided to run in the forthcoming elections to propose to the masses alternative policies different from those of the ruling party: the policy of national dialogue as an alternative to political polarization and a plunge into the quagmire of violence; the policy of alternating power under true political pluralism as an alternative to the ruling party's monopoly on power and wealth; the policy of popular supervision as an alternative to corruption and corrupting in the organs of government, particularly the local government; the policy of independent national development as an alternative to reliance on the outside world and accepting the conditions of the IMF and the World Bank, which force the Government of Egypt to abandon the interests of the toiling masses and be biased in favor of the affluent classes and groups; an Arab policy that supports the popular aspirations of Arab unity, economic integration, and the employment of Arab wealth in comprehensive Arab development; a policy of pan-Arab security that is based on the Arab homeland's supreme interests as an alternative to the policy of strategic linkage with U.S. interests despite the U.S. position, which is hostile to our genuine Arab rights, at the head of which is the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state.

Official Denies 15 Military Personnel Killed

JN2610180190 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
24 Oct 90 p 6

[Text] Staff Major General Hitler al-Tantawi, secretary-general of the Defense Ministry, has denied a report published in Cairo AL-SHA'B yesterday to the effect that 15 Egyptian military personnel were killed in Saudi Arabia when their vehicle overturned.

Al-Tantawi added that the report, which stated that the Ministry is imposing a news blackout on the alleged incident, is groundless. He expressed the Ministry's willingness to provide accurate data to any party asking for it before printing any reports on the Armed Forces.

U.S. Bill Lauded; Arabs Urged To Waive Debts

*JN2910123990 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
27 Oct 90 p 7*

[Editorial: "International Conference To Forgive Debts"]

[Text] The preamble to the U.S. congressional bill envisaging a write-off of Egypt's military debts of $7.1 billion also proposed that President George Bush call an international conference to forgive Egypt's civilian as well as military debts. The proposal was initiated by the Egyptian negotiating team led by Abu-Ghazalah and Ashraf Ghurbal.

The U.S. move is a measure of the high regard in which Egyptian policies are held by the U.S. Administration leading Bush to press the Congress to write off Egypt's military debts and urge other nations to follow suit.

Creditor Arab countries are thus dutybound to move to forgive debts owed by Egypt and to reroute part of their overseas investments to Egypt to help it cope with the consequences of its principled stance on the Gulf crisis. Accordingly, Arab oil countries, especially those of the Gulf, ought to write off whatever debts are owed them by Egypt following the examples of the State of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. Eventually, these Arab states are bound to realize that, at the end of the day, forgiving Egypt its military and civilian debts enhances pan-Arab security. Relieving Egypt of this economic burden should help it promote and safeguard pan-Arab security.

Makramallah Comments on Debts, Expected Aid

*NC3010213490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1917 GMT
30 Oct 90*

[Text] Cairo, 30 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, has stressed that the Egyptian Government is determined to sign the final agreement with the IMF and that there is no truth to reports by certain parties that this agreement is of no avail. He noted that the agreement between Egypt and the IMF means that the Egyptian economic reform plan is completely sound.

Makramallah pointed out that during the past two years, Egypt has succeeded in rescheduling approximately $2 billion of debts. He said that talks are expected to take place with the creditor countries to settle Egypt's arrears.

In a statement published in AL-AKHBAR, Makramallah said that the real figure for Egypt's debts does not exceed $45 billion. In addition, there are military debts, the amount of which is considered secret. He expects that next year Egypt will get cash grants totaling $300 million from the United States, in addition to further flexibility in the economic aid program to Egypt, particularly regarding the amounts allocated to imports of raw materials and production requirements proposed to total $300 million.

Makramallah welcomed Egypt's return to the International Development Association [IDA] after a 10-year suspension. He pointed out that Egypt will obtain $70 million from IDA in loans with low interest not exceeding 0.75 percent [figure as received] to be repaid over 50 years with a 10-year grace period. He said that more importantly, we will get additional privileges when we reschedule the debts with the Paris Club, such as reduced interest rates, an increased grace period, and the possibility of writing off part of the debts.

New Tax Said To Raise Prices by 20 Percent

*JN2810154090 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic
24 Oct 90 p 1*

[Report by Hanim 'Abd-al-'Aziz]

[Text] A Finance Ministry official says that the application of the new sales tax, which replaces the consumption tax, will lead to an increase in prices of at least 20 percent, especially since the tax will be levied on goods in factories without taking into account the percentage of wastage and damage in the process of packaging and distribution.

The source said the middle and poor classes will particularly be hit hard by this tax. It will also affect small projects and obstruct their functioning because they depend on intermediate products.

Satellite Ground Station Inaugurated 29 Oct

*NC2910121490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0847 GMT
29 Oct 90*

[Text] Cairo, 29 Oct (MENA)—Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport, and Arab transport ministers inaugurated in al-Ma'adi this morning the ground station for communications through Arabsat, which provides channels for international telephone, telex, and telegraph communications, and for conveyance of information through 36 percent of the operating channels [not further specified].

The rest of the communications will be provided by other international channels, with nine percent transmitted via terrestial means and 55 percent by undersea cables.

Eng. Mutawalli said the station will ensure all international communications with 27 countries via the Intelsat network over the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. These 27 are among 50 countries with which Egypt has direct contact.

He added that the transmission and reception of television and news programs will be exchanged with all countries that have ground stations linked to Intelsat, and he said that communications with ships, oil rigs, and mobile stations operating via the Atlantic maritime communications satellite will also be provided.

Meanwhile, Eng. Wajdi 'Abd-al-Hamid, chairman of the National Telecommunications Authority, said the station, which cost 10 million [Egyptian] pounds, provides channels for telephone, radio, and television contact with the Arab countries.

He added that, with the operation of this station, communications service will be available to countries that previously had no direct contact with Egypt, such as Morocco, Somalia, and Mauritania. In addition, it will double the exchange of television and news programs with the Arab countries and the use of Arabsat's wide-band transponder, which covers the Arab world and some European and African countries.

He noted that the station will serve Egyptian television by making broadcasts available in remote regions, at oil companies' desert operations areas which currently do not receive television broadcasts, and in Egyptian communities abroad.

Experimental Satellite Transmission Begins

NC2910170590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that the Arabsat ground station which was inaugurated today is a major achievement. Starting today it will enable Egyptian media to be available in the Arab world via the news exchange channel. He said all Arab subscribers will receive daily transmissions of news, cultural reports, and evening programs.

Beginning today, Egypt will transmit several hours of selected news and various other programs on the news exchange channel daily. Safwat al-Sharif said this will provide Egypt with numerous capabilities now that we have a permanent channel at a lower cost and the opportunity to reserve the appropriate time for transmission. He added that the wide-band transponder, that is the Egyptian international satellite channel, will provide quality programs for Egyptian television's Channels 1 and 2 through the ground station.

The Egyptian satellite channel will begin experimental transmission as of today and continue to do so throughout November. Full transmission will start after erection of the ground stations and aerials that will relay the transmission to the Egyptian forces in Hafar al-Batin in Saudi Arabia and in the United Arab Emirates. This transmission will also be received in fraternal Bahrain. According to an agreement concluded with it, Bahrain will retransmit the material from the satellite channel on one of its television channels and on television channels in other neighboring Gulf countries.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1445 GMT on 29 October reports: "The information minister has issued a decision appointing Engineer 'Abd- al-Salam Khalil as chairman of the Egyptian satellite channel, and establishing a board of directors for it comprising the directors of the Egyptian television channels and experts in the field of communications and satellites."]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Islamic Forum

LD3010155590 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution this morning attended the opening session of the extraordinary meeting of the General Congress of the World Islamic People's Leadership in Tripoli. The meeting will discuss the latest developments in the Islamic world.

The participants in this extraordinary meeting greeted the Muslim revolutionary, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the World Islamic People's Leadership, with chants which stressed firm belief in the goals and principles of the Islamic al-Fatih revolution [1 September 1969] and its leader, the initiator of the era of the masses, the champion of the oppressed and the defender of Muslim causes throughout the world.

In his address to the participants, the brother leader of the revolution began by expressing his deep gratitude to the members of the World Islamic People's Leadership who accepted the invitation and arrived here very quickly to hold this extraordinary meeting in implementation of the charter of the World Islamic People's Leadership.

Ambassador to Jordan on Gulf Crisis, Palestine

JN3010212290 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Oct 90 p 15

[By Wafa' 'Amr]

[Excerpts] Amman—Muhammad 'Ali Ba'wash, the Libyan ambassador accredited to Jordan, yesterday described Jordanian-Libyan relations as being very good and built on solid foundations. He said that Libyan relations with Jordan will take a normal and real course in terms of building bridges and joint cooperation. [passage omitted]

Ba'wash said: We are neither terrorists nor killers. We cooperate with everyone. The Libyan role has always been revolutionary and exemplary to prevent the establishment of foreign military bases in the Arab homeland and to reject foreign intereference. Libya rejects the exploitation of the Arab homeland resources. Therefore, it was fought, particularly because it adopted the Palestine question at a time when the other countries remained silent.

He noted that the resumption of Libyan-Jordanian relations comes at a time when the Arabs should be united, particularly because Jordan is threatened by Zionism. He said: We cannot allow ourselves to distance ourselves from a country like Jordan. Jordan should be supported; we must participate with it in the big decisive battle, the battle of liberating

Palestine, because Jordan shoulders the burdens of the Palestine question. He added that Libya, announcing through its leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, said it is ready to cover Jordan's sky with air defenses to confront Zionism. And this readiness still exists. He added that his country will continue to support the PLO and the intifadah.

Ba'wash noted the existence of economic cooperation between Libya and Jordan, particularly in the medical field. He added that a delegation from the Secretariat of Economy and Trade will arrive in Amman after a few days .

On the Libyan position on the Gulf crisis, the Libyan ambassador noted that his country's position has been firm since the outbreak of the crisis. Libyan announced its nonacceptance of the Iraqi forces' entry into Kuwait, but at the same time, it supports Iraq against the United States. He said that his country announced a peaceful initiative on the basis that a reconciliation will be achieved between Iraq and Kuwait through dialogue. Al-Rumaylah oil field would be given to Iraq and Iraq would also be given a passage to the Gulf. An Arab dialogue should be held without foreign interference. The two sides should be compensated. And this would be agreed on during the dialogue. He said that the issue of Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait comes after the agreement and dialogue among the concerned parties.

He said that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah is ready to fight the American and Western armies if an aggression is committed against Iraq. He said: We cannot just watch while an Arab brother is being killed. He added that the economic blockade on Iraq is unaccepted. This is a method that was not followed in the world in the past; it is a method of starvation to subjugate Iraq to the American policy.

He described the British stand on the Gulf crisis as the greatest instigation for war. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

Preparations Under Way for December Elections

AB3010152590 London BBC World Service in English 1709 GMT 29 Oct 90

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Municipal elections are due in Mauritania next December. It will be the military government's first step towards full democratic reform of the country's political structures. Political parties are not permitted yet, but informal political groups are being allowed to participate in December's polls. A ministerial committee has been meeting to consider whether to accept the lists of candidates that have been submitted by the various groups and now has given its verdict. From Nouakchott, Sheba Kaye telexed this report:

[Begin recording] [Kaye] Four lists from among tens submitted have been chosen by the ministerial committee. The four lists represent the Islamic fundamentalists, Pan-Arab Nasserists, black Africans, and communists. The choice of the ministerial committee has surprised many observers here. The selection of the Islamic fundamentalists was not expected because of mounting concern about the increasing influence of Islamic extremists. The other surprise was the fact pro-Iraqi Ba'thists were not selected, especially, in view of the current good relations between Baghdad and Nouakchott.

The list of the Nasserists is headed by a professor at the Nouakchott University called (Abdulrahaman Ould al-Ghadi). The list of the Islamic fundamentalists is headed by the former minister of fishing, (Dagh Ould Shaykh). The list of black Africans is headed by Mr. (Maasaoud Ould Volkya), again a former minister.

The list is made up of harratins, or former slaves, who are not exactly a political movement nor a social class fighting for equality with other classes. Observers here believe that the elections would be a contest between the Nasserists and the Islamic fundamentalists. Observers currently believe that the black Africans are in third place, but that they could spring a surprise by forming an electoral alliance with the communists.

Telephone, Telex Links With Senegal Restored

AB3010171890 Paris AFP in French 2020 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Nouakchott, 29 Oct (AFP)—Nouakchott-Dakar telephone and telex links were restored on 28 October between Mauritania and Senegal, observers in the Mauritanian capital noted. International telephone and telex communication between Nouakchott and Dakar were suspended last July on the initiative of Mauritania as a result of the Senegalese-Mauritanian crisis which began over one and a half years ago, it may be recalled.

Senegalese customers resumed telephone contacts with Nouakchott about a month or two ago, but their Mauritanian counterparts could not do the same. A recording always announced to them that it was not possible to get calls through this line.

According to a reliable source in Nouakchott, it is believed that this decision on the part of Mauritania to restore telephone and telex links with Senegal constitutes not only a sign of the Mauritanian authorities willingness to try to solve the Senegalese-Mauritanian crisis, but also to improve relations which were broken in August 1989 between the two countries at Dakar's initiative.

The dispute between the two neighboring countries broke out in April 1989. A clash between Mauritanian herdsmen and Senegalese farmers soon degenerated into a free-for-all with fighting between blacks and Moors claiming over 300 lives on both sides.

Morocco

'Colonialist' Campaign by French Media Condemned

LD3110092790 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] For several weeks now Morocco has been the target of a semi-organized media campaign, particularly by French radio and television networks under French Government control. These networks include the French television network Antenne 2 and Radio France Internationale.

This campaign is led by some organizations hostile to our country that are taking cover under slogans aimed at harming Morocco's entity, homeland, and institutions. This media campaign, which undoubtedly enjoys some facilities from some French mass media, shows there is a solid organization that aims to put pressure on our country and damage its sovereignty and its independent decision.

This campaign caused a wave of deep indignation in all Moroccan walks of life that view this conspiracy as a continuation of the colonialist spirit that the Moroccan people fought and eradicated when the king and the people recovered their independence and sovereignty through struggle, huge sacrifices, and eternal acts of heroism.

Political observers wonder about the real causes behind this suspicious move, because all the channels are providing their services to groups known for their contempt for and rabid intentions against Morocco because of the stability and security enjoyed by our country, its mass mobilization to defend the country, and its efforts to live in peace and prosperity.

Political observers also wonder about the extent of some French circles' participation in motivating these organizations, campaigning for them, facilitating their missions, and opening the doors of radio and television to air their desperate speeches that are based on insults, contempt, and outworn patriarchal colonialist ideas.

Morocco, which shares with France periods of confrontation and cooperation, does not forget at this acute time its sons' blood shed in defense of France's freedom and liberation. Also, Morocco does not forget its confrontation against France as a colonialist force, and the number of martyrs Morocco provided to defend its land and dignity. Likewise, Morocco does not forget relations of cooperation and the principles of freedom, democracy, and justice it shares with France.

Therefore, and on the basis of these principles and virtues, the Moroccan people today condemn and vehemently denounce anything that offends its dignity and harms its spiritual and national feelings. If this situation is not contained, it will undoubtedly reflect negatively on the traditional relations between the two countries in all spheres of cooperation.

Faced with these continuing acts that are far from the spirit of friendship, cooperation, and respect, all Moroccan strata are sending cables of condemnation and denunciation to the president of the French Republic, the prime minister of the French Government, and to the French foreign minister in which they express their deep indignation at and their frank condemnation of this hostile act against our country. We have learned that thousands of cables are constantly being sent to the French president's office, French prime minister's office, and the French Foreign Ministry from various regions of the Kingdom of Morocco and signed by deputies, elected members of all councils, chambers of commerce, cultural, social and scientific organizations, surgeons and doctors, religious scholars, war veterans, deans of universities, heads of educational institutions, trade unions, and branches of all national political parties.

Sudan

Commerce Ministry Under Secretary Denies Famine

EA3010160490 Khartoum SUNA in English 1010 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Khartoum, 30 October (SUNA)—Reports from the production areas in the country affirmed that the agricultural season this year would be successful. Under secretary of the Ministry of Commerce Al-Kindi Yousif said the measures taken by the government would bridge the food gap. He denied allegations in the foreign mass media on the existence of famine in Sudan, explaining that food provision all over the country is going on normally.

Tunisia

Interior Ministry Statement Warns 'Extremists'

LD3010143190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30

[Text] A responsible source at the Interior Ministry has stated the following:

The streets of the capital and some adjoining districts have witnessed acts of disturbances instigated by extremist groups aimed at disrupting public order and undermining the private and public sectors. These acts include setting fire to cars and stores.

It is noted that lawless groups have been inciting workers leaving their factories and students leaving their schools in order to spread anarchy and they have been vainly trying to embroil innocent citizens in their actions.

For this reason, the Ministry of the Interior declares its determination to deal with all acts of law breaking most rigorously and warns all those tempted to disturb the citizens and to encroach on public and private property that they will be dealt with all the force of the law.

Bahrain

Prime Minister Stresses Need 'To Liberate Kuwait'

JN2810151290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1120 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Manama, 28 Oct (WAKH)—Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah has called on the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states who will meet in Riyadh today to focus all efforts to liberate Kuwait and reinstate legitimacy in the country in accordance with the will of the international community as represented in the emergency Arab summit and the UN Security Council resolutions.

At the ordinary session of the ministerial council held today, his highness stressed that along with efforts under way, guarantees should be set in place to ensure security and stability, and to prevent the reoccurrence of an aggression in the future.

This came after the ministerial council reviewed the most important items on the agenda of the extraordinary meeting of the GCC ministerial council, which will be held in Riyadh this evening. [passage omitted]

UK Defense Chief Visits Bahrain, Meets Troops

LD2910183590 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1258 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Report from the Gulf by Ian Graham]

[Text] The chief of the defence staff, Air Marshal Sir David Craig, visited British forces in the Gulf today. Making his first tour of the area since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2, he travelled to Bahrain for meetings with Navy and RAF [Royal Air Force] chiefs. A British military spokesman said the visit was part of a wider tour of the area which would include a trip to inspect front line forces in Saudi Arabia.

Sir David called on Bahrain's Defence Minister Major General Khalifah Ibn-Ahmad Al Khalifah at the state's defence headquarters before meeting his own commanders. He was briefed on naval activities in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman by Commodore Paul Haddacks, the senior naval officer Middle East, during a visit to his flag ship, the frigate HMS London.

Sir David also had discussions with the American naval commander for the Area, Vice Admiral Henr Mauz, on the USS Blue Ridge.

He later met officers and men serving with the RAF and the 22 Field Hospital, Royal Army Medical Corp.

Djibouti Minister Leaves After Talks on Gulf

JN2810112490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0620 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Manama, 27 Oct (WAKH)—Djibouti's Foreign Minister Moumin Bahdon Farah and the accompanying delegation left Manama this morning following a three-day visit to Bahrain as part of a tour in the region.

He was seen off at the airport by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah.

The Djibouti minister said that during his visit to Bahrain he conveyed a message to Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah from President Gouled Hassan of Djibouti on bilateral relations, means to promote them in the various fields, and the current developments in the Gulf as a result of the Iraqi invasion of sisterly Kuwait.

He said that Djibouti was among the first Arab states to condemn this invasion.

Bahdon Farah added that he reviewed with Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah and Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah the developments of the Gulf crisis and the current Arab and African issues and stressed that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait caused great harm to the Arab nation. He also said that it is unacceptable for an Arab state to occupy another sisterly Arab state which has always taken the initiative to do all that is beneficial for our Arab and Islamic nation.

Kuwait

Premier Rejects Compromise, Talks

PM3010163990 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Oct 90 p 2

[Interview in al-Ta'if "last week" with Kuwaiti Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah's by delegation from international group of Saudi Research and Marketing Company—represented by Muhammad Ma'ruf al-Shibani, member of the board of directors; Ahmad Muhammad, company adviser; Dawud Mahmud al-Shuryan, chief editor of AL-MUSLIMUM; 'Abd-al-'Azizi Sahrqi, chief editor of AL-RIYADIYAH; Muhammad al-Amin Fal, director of the Gulf Advertising Company; Muhammad al-Mukhtar Fal, director of the marketing department; and Wahib Ghurab, editor of AL-MAJALLAH in the Gulf]

[Text] [Question] There is continuing talk about Kuwait's acceptance of a partial withdrawal from Kuwait.

[Al-Sabah] Anyone who believes that Kuwait would accept anything less than implementation of the Security Council resolutions and the other resolutions issued by the conference of the Islamic states' foreign ministers is mistaken. All these resolutions focus on condemning the enemy and demand the withdrawal of his forces and the restoration of legitimacy. And withdrawal must be total withdrawal from all Kuwaiti territory. And you will not find a single Kuwaiti who accepts anything less than this. And anything other than that would would mean that we recognize Saddam's alleged right.

[Question] There is still talk about the possibility of a dialogue or negotiations over the Kuwaiti islands which Iraq is seeking to acquire. Do you think that is possible?

[Al-Sabah] There can be no talks with the one who committed aggression against our territory and kinfolk so long as his forces are occupying our country. After all, this no dialogue can take place except via the Arab League Council.

[Question] What is your comment on the reports that Iraq has cordoned off the area it wants to acquire?

[Al-Sabah] We receive information all the time about that subject, namely that the Iraqis have cordoned the area off and are installing chain-link fencing around it. We would not be surprised by any action the Iraqis take while occupying our territory. But the international borders between us are known.

[Question] That means that your position is based on the principle of not rewarding the aggression.

[Al-Sabah] Yes, this is the reality, the reality of our position and the international community's position. As you know, this position is demanded by the world's states. The Security Council resolutions do not represent only the five permanent member states but all the world's states.

[Question] How do you view the principle of the need to punish the aggressor?

[Al-Sabah] That decision, as you know, began to be discussed in the Security Council, but the events which occurred in the occupied Arab territories and the Security Council's interest in them led to the postponement of that decision. It focuses on forcing Iraq to pay compensation for the damage it has inflicted on Kuwait.

[Question] How do you view envoy Primakov's mission and the reports about a settlement which his visit to Baghdad has produced?

[Al-Sabah] We followed up his visit to Baghdad and then his U.S. and European tour, and we do not know what impression he came out with after his Baghdad visit. We also followed his tour of the European states and the United States aimed at briefing officials in these states on the results of his visit to Baghdad and probing these states' ideas. The information available to us says that he did not propose a particular formula, and you probably heard that 20 minutes before his meeting with President Bush, the President emphasized his rejection of any views or proposals on bargaining. It is clear that all the states emphasize the need to implement the UN resolution.

[Question] What is your opinion of the claim that President Mitterrand's statement represented French backtracking on the general inclination to confront Iraq?

[Al-Sabah] France's position is clear—commitment to the Security Council resolutions. And this was emphasized to us by the French foreign minister when he met with the country's amir outside the UN meetings. It was also emphasized through the statements made by President Mitterrand during his recent visit to Saudi Arabia. And I believe that the amir's recent visit to France has contributed to emphasizing the French position based on supporting the Security Council resolutions against Iraq.

[Question] In view of all that has been published and discovered about some Arab states' positions and conspiracy with Iraq against Kuwait and the other states in the region, what is your opinion of these positions?

[Al-Sabah] We were actually very surprised and pained by these states' positions. And I am amazed that they could not have the capability or the courage to tell Iraq that it is wrong in its invasion of Kuwait and to condemn the barbarous actions committed against our country and citizens. And today we see indications that some states had knowledge of the invasion schemes against our country. And I say we must wait, as the near future will reveal to us more and more. Recent events have mixed the cards, and—most regrettably—there are those who have given priority to interests over principles. And one day these people will realize the gravity of their mistake against us.

[Question] Frankly, after all that has happened, do you see any future possibility of the Gulf states' dealing with the states which have supported Saddam?

[Al-Sabah] What happened to us with regard to the region's states has taught us lessons which we will never forget and from which we have learned a great deal. And this will strengthen cooperation among us, the Gulf states, in the future. What happened has proved to us that we are all in one boat, so we will work to intensify our cooperation substantially.

[Question] Does what was published about a meeting between the U.S. ambassador to Iraq and President Saddam before the invasion—does this not give the impression that the United States had knowledge of his intention to invade Kuwait? What do you say?

[Al-Sabah] We have nothing to prove that the United States knew of Saddam's intentions against us. Everyone knows that he spoke to the ambassador and assured her that he had no intention of taking any military action. He told her she could start her vacation and that nothing would happen.

[Question] Do you believe that the current talk about a peaceful solution gives the impression that the big powers' enthusiasm for moving Iraq out has declined?

[Al-Sabah] No, that is untrue. President Bush's statements emphasize that he is committed to forcing

Saddam to withdraw his forces. The big powers want to give the economic embargo a chance to come into play, and then, assess its results. They also want to give Saddam the chance to choose a a peaceful solution. That will be the final attempt.

[Question] There is talk about a Gulf-Iranian rapprochement. What truth is there in this?

[Al-Sabah] The Iranians have told us that they want to forget the past and open a new chapter with us. This includes all the Gulf states. There is an inclination on their part in that regard. And in our view, that takes place via reciprocal meetings between officials of the two countries and by reaching an understanding with them on regional issues.

[Question] You know that military experts and analysts believe that launching a military operation to liberate Kuwait would expose it to further mass destruction. What is your opinion?

[Al-Sabah] Brother, what is left of Kuwait after all that Saddam's troops have done to it? I, as a citizen and official, am ready to sacrifice everything for the sake of recovering and liberating my country. And this is the position of every ordinary Kuwaiti.

[Question] How do you view the position of the Asian sports authorities and others toward Kuwait and their support for its cause?

[Al-Sabah] We followed the Asian sports tournament held in China recently. And here I must register Kuwait's and its sports movement's thanks and appreciation for the efforts exerted by Prince Faysal Bin-Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, for his clear and frank position on barring Iraq from the tournament, and for the moral support given to the Kuwaiti sports delegation. This undoubtedly is the object of our appreciation.

Will you demand damages for what has been inflicted on Kuwait? Have the losses been assessed?

[Al-Sabah] Yes, we will put forward our demands and will not backtrack on this. The losses are great. Suffice it to look, for instance, at what happened to Kuwaiti Airlines following the looting and theft of aircraft and spare parts valued at hundreds of millions of dollars. And you can judge what has happened to the other establishments.

[Question] What is the truth about what happened at your meeting with the Iraqi vice president before the invasion?

[Al-Sabah] There is nothing secret. What happened was that we discussed the Iraqi allegations and replied to them very truthfully and clearly. And we agreed that our meeting was a preliminary meeting to be followed by other meetings in Baghdad and Kuwait. We agreed on the broad outlines; we agreed to discuss our differences amicably and via dialogue, so we were surprised by the use of force. At the meeting we did not notice any premeditated intentions, and their demands were not specific. They were raised in a general way. When they claimed that we had set up centers [marakiz] I told him: You are the vice president, let us agree to send a committee to determine the reality. So he just said: That is what we want. And if you have any claims, you must respond to the Iraqi demands. They alleged that we were stealing oil but they are liars, because they pumped more than we did.

[Question] What is your opinion of Jordan's announcement that trucks will be banned from heading for Iraq in line with the economic embargo resolutions?

[Al-Sabah] We hope they are sincere in their commitment. And if they are serious, they must translate that commitment into practical terms. But what we see is something different.

Amir Receives USSR's Primakov 30 Oct

Expresses Thanks for Support

LD3010131990 London KUNA in Arabic 1136 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Al-Ta'if 30 Oct (KUNA)—The State of Kuwait has expressed its appreciation for the efforts being exerted by the Soviet Union to implement the UN Security Council resolutions on the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. It also asserted the need for Iraq to comply with Arab, Islamic, and international resolutions stipulating Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from all Kuwaiti territory and the return of the legitimate authorities.

Kuwait has also thanked all fraternal and friendly countries which are trying with all possible means to implement the resolutions of the Arab League and the UN Security Council and to consolidate the determination of the international community to end the unjust Iraqi occupation, to return the legitimate authorities, and to put an end to the plight of the Kuwaiti people and the foreign residents who are daily facing severe acts of oppression, terrorism, and torture at the hands of the Iraqi occupation forces.

This was stated by an authoritative source following the meeting today between Yevgeniy Primakov, member of the Soviet Presidential Council and special envoy of the Soviet president, and Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait. The meeting was also attended by Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister; Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; 'Abd al-Rahman Salim al-'Uttayqi, adviser at His Highness' Office; and Sulayman 'Abd-al- Razzaq al-Mutaww'a.

Following is the full text of the authoritative source's statement:

Kuwait expresses its appreciation for the efforts being made by the Soviet Union to implement the UN Security

Council resolutions on the Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait and asserts its determination that the Iraqi regime must comply with the Arab nation's will as expressed in the statement adopted by the emergency Arab summit, with the Islamic nation's will as expressed by the statement adopted by the Islamic countries' ministerial council, and with the will of the international community as expressed in the UN Security Council resolutions which have all called for the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwaiti territory and the return of the State of Kuwait's legitimate authorities.

Furthermore, Kuwait would like to express its appreciation to all fraternal and friendly countries which are trying with all possible means to fully implement the resolutions of the Arab summit and the UN Security Council and to bolster the international community's determination to put an end to the unjust Iraqi occupation and to the plight of the Kuwaiti people and the foreign citizens [in Kuwait] who are subjected daily to harsher acts of repression, terrorism, and torture at the hands of the forces of the criminal Iraqi regime.

Reiterates Gulf Policy

JN3010192690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1725 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah received Soviet presidential envoy Yevgeniy Primakov at his place of residence in al-Ta'if today. Heir Apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad attended the meeting. The talks dealt with the results of Primakov's tour of Baghdad and several other Arab countries seeking to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in a peaceful manner.

In spite of the secrecy with which the Soviets have shrouded the talks, a responsible Kuwaiti source has stated that while his country appreciates the Soviet Union's efforts to enforce UN Security Council resolutions on Iraq's occupation of the State of Kuwait, it reiterates its insistence that the Iraqi regime give in to the Arab nation's will represented in the Cairo summit resolutions, to the Islamic nation's will represented in the Islamic countries foreign ministers' conference communique, and to the international community's will represented in the UN Security Council resolutions, all of which call for the unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from all Kuwaiti territory and the return of the legitimate authorities.

The Kuwaiti source praised the countries that work for the complete implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions and seek to enhance the international community's determination to end the Iraqi occupation.

For his part, Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that the world at large supports Saudi Arabia's measures to defend its security, pointing out that the international forces had come to the kingdom after Iraq occupied Kuwait and threatened Saudi Arabia's security. Shaykh Nasir reiterated his country categorically rejects any initiative that does not conform to the UN Security Council resolutions. Shaykh Nasir voiced displeasure with the reservations some Arab countries have on the invasion, and called on them to resort to logic, and to take note of the massacres Saddam Husayn is committing in Kuwait, not to mention his role in dividing the Arab world and diverting attention from the Palestinian cause.

Oman

Foreign Minister Comments on GCC Meetings

JN3010125890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0535 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Muscat, 29 Oct (WAKH)—Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Muscat this evening from Riyadh after chairing the extraordinary meetings of the Gulf Cooperation Council's [GCC] Ministerial Council which concluded its meetings earlier today.

Mr. Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah described as good the results of the 13th extraordinary meeting of the Council.

He noted in a statement today that the Ministerial Council discussions concentrated on the international community's solidarity with the UN resolutions regarding the crisis in the region.

Answering a question on the options for solving the crisis, he said he believes that all options remain open.

Regarding the future of the military option if the diplomatic solution is exhausted and what the next step would be, Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah said that the Council did not discuss military issues. He pointed out that this is the responsibility of the military leaders and they are the ones who decide on it.

He expressed satisfaction with what has so far been achieved in the political and military spheres as well as the various arrangements to deal with the crisis.

Regarding the Iranian stand on the current crisis in the region and its adherence to the international Security Council resolutions, he said the Iranian stand is good and developing.

He affirmed that in the coming stage of the GCC the Council will proceed along the same lines as it did previously.

Fahar Confers With British Defense Staff Chief

JN3010174490 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Excerpt] His Highness Fahar Bin-Taymur Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs, received in the Bayt al-Falaj camp this morning British Air Marshal Sir David Craig, chief of the defense staff, and his accompanying delegation. They had a friendly conversation and discussed issues of mutual interest. [passage omitted]

Qabus Receives Letter From Djibouti's President

JN3010175490 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, God preserve him, has received a written letter from Goulde Hassan, president of fraternal Djibouti. The letter was conveyed to Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, during his reception of Moumin Bahdon, Djibouti minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, in Muscat today. The Djibouti minister conveyed the Djibouti president's greetings and best wishes for his majesty the sultan, his government, and the Omani people.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations, aspects of cooperation, the current situation in the Gulf region, and issues of mutual interest.

Qatar

Amir Receives Message From Djibouti's President

JN2910154890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1120 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Doha, 29 Oct (WAKH)—Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani has received a written message from Djibouti President Gouled Hassan Aptidon.

The message was delivered by Moumin Bahdon Farah, Djibouti minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, when his highness the amir of Qatar received him today in Doha.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister of Qatar.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY, QNA, reported that the message deals with the development of the situation in the Gulf region in light of the continuing Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. The message also includes an affirmation of Djibouti's condemnation of the Iraqi invasion and demand for the implementation of the Arab summit and Security Council resolutions calling for an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of the legitimate government represented by its amir, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah.

Talks during the meeting dealt with the current Arab and Islamic situation and the effects and influences of the Gulf crisis, in addition to means of building up relations between Qatar and Djibouti.

Canadian Military Officials Arrive in Doha

JN3010130490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Doha, 30 Oct (WAKH)—General Richard Stran, [name as received] chief of staff of the Canadian Defense Forces, and Canadian Deputy Defense Minister Robert Fowler [name as received] arrived in Doha this morning on a two-day visit to Qatar as part of their current tour of a number of countries in the region.

On hand to receive them were Staff Colonel Pilot Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-'Abdallah Al Thani, Qatari chief of staff of the Armed Forces, and the Canadian ambassador to Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia

Arab Forces To Replace French at Front

LD3010154390 Paris Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] French soldiers are pulling back from the front line in northeastern Saudi Arabia. They will complete their withdrawal this week. The Saudi authorities have asked them to pull back about 20 kilometers to allow Arab—apparently Syrian—troops to be face-to-face with the Iraqis.

Commander Views Gulf Crisis, Chemical Warfare

NC3010221790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Interview with Staff Lieutenant General Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the joint forces in the Gulf, by radio correspondent Muhammad Zayd on the 'Spotlights on Events' program; place, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Khalid] His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's visit to the Egyptian forces is a source of pride for all of us in the joint forces. The Egyptian and Saudi forces are one and the same. When he came, it was like a meeting between a father and his sons in the Egyptian forces' forward units. The professional Egyptian soldiers' instructions to defend the holy places and their efficiency will, God willing, end the problem or rather, the catastrophe that has befallen the Arab world—which, God willing, is supporting the Arabs forces, with the Egyptian forces at the forefront, in the interest of Arabs and Muslims.

[Zayd] Your Highness, the Arab, Islamic, and friendly forces have come to Saudi Arabia to support the kingdom and to defend it against any possible attack. What is your answer to the Iraqi lies that these forces are desecrating the holy land when we know that Iraq caused these forces to be in the holy land as a result of its invasion of Kuwait?

[Khalid] As a matter of fact and as you just said, they are lies by someone who has become used to lying. No one believes President Saddam, not even his closest supporters. He certainly had hoped that these forces would not come to support us so that he and his Armed Forces—which we had provided for during his war with Iran—could threaten and contain the eastern area after ensuring his occupation of the fraternal state of Kuwait. Thank God that what is taking place on Saudi Arabian territory now is by the grace of God Almighty who has sent these friendly and international forces to defend these territories, regardless of each nation's aims and its interests in this presence. The important thing is that they are all united in serving and defending justice and in their refusal to have one country swallow up another, which did not even happen in al-Jahiliyah times [in the pre-Islamic era].

[Zayd] Iraq's ruler is threatening to use chemical weapons if war breaks out. Can you tell us about the Saudi training and the extent of the readiness to repulse such an attack against Saudi territory?

[Khalid] As a military commander, I must in fact take any of the hostile threats seriously. Chemical weapons and destructive weapons, or the so-called nonconventional weapons, have been used many times in battlegrounds in the past. The Iraqi president's use of such weapons in the future cannot be ruled out. He had used them against his people, against the Kurds. Hence, we have prepared our armed forces fully for possible combat in circumstances where these weapons would be used. This is reasonable from a military viewpoint. Everyone knows that the Gulf crisis has increased the military confidence and knowledge of the masses as a whole, such as knowledge about protection from chemical warfare. Training is good, and chemical masks and clothes are available. The best method of defense against these weapons is certainly to destroy them before they reach their targets. This is one secret of war, if there is one.

Soviet Trade Minister Leaves Jeddah

LD2810105990 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1010 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Jeddah, 28 October (SPA)—Soviet Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Katuchev and members of his delegation left Jeddah this morning. They were seen off at the King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport by Saudi Minister of Trade Dr. Sulayman al-Salim, a representative from the royal protocol department, and a number of officials.

King Receives Moroccan, Algerian Officials

LD2610182890 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, today received a message from His Majesty King Hassan II of the Kingdom of Morocco. The message was conveyed by his excellency the Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Dr. Abdellatif Filali, when he was received by King Fahd at al-Salam palace. The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, and the Moroccan ambassador to the Kingdom, Dr. Ahmed Ramzi.

The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, also received a message from his excellency the Algerian president, Chadli Bendjedid. The message was conveyed by his excellency the Algerian foreign minister, Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghazali, when he was received by King Fahd at al-Salam Palace today. The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, and the Algerian ambassador to the Kingdom, Mr. Abdelkadr Bensalah.

King Fahd Promotes Army Officers

LD2710130690 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, approved the appointment and promotion of 2,032 officers in the various military sectors. Thus, three were promoted from brigadier-general to major-general; 14 from colonel to brigadier-general; 89 from lieutenant-colonel to colonel; 291 from major to lieutenant-colonel; 237 from captain to major; 627 from 1st lieutenant to captain; 656 from 2d lieutenant to 1st lieutenant. Moreover, 13 graduates were appointed 1st lieutenant and 102 officers were appointed and promoted to the rank of 2d lieutenant.

Minister Reaffirms Export Ban on Food, Medicine

LD3010205490 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Commerce Minister Dr. Sulayman al-Sulayyim has made the following statement:

The ministry has noticed that some people are exporting basic foodstuffs and medicine. Since these products are subsidized by the state, which is constantly anxious to reduce the cost of living for Saudi nationals and foreign residents, the ministry would like to reaffirm the need to adhere to the given instructions banning the export of the following basic foodstuffs: rice, sugar, flour, barley, imported cooking oils, and dried milk, in addition to medicine.

In conclusion, he said: These instructions have already been passed to all customs points and the chambers of commerce. Anyone contravening these instructions will face punishment.

United Arab Emirates

U.S. General Horner Arrives in Abu Dhabi

JN3110124490 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] Lieutenant General Charles Horner, Air Force commander for the American Central Command, arrived in the country this morning. He was received on arrival by Staff Brigadier General Rashid Mubarak al-Riyali, commander of the Air Force and Defense Forces.

Djibouti's Foreign Minister Arrives

Brings Message

JN2810112890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Oct (WAKH)—Djibouti's Foreign Minister Moumin Bahdon Farah arrived in Abu Dhabi this morning on a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] as part of a tour in the region.

Bahdon Farah will convey a message to UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan from President Gouled Hassan of Djibouti. He will also hold talks with senior officials, which will focus on the Gulf crisis and bilateral relations.

Meets President

JN2810152690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has received a written message from President Gouled Hassan of Djibouti on the situation in the region and on bilateral relations.

The message was delivered by Djibouti Foreign Minister Moumin Bahdon Farah when he was received by his highness the UAE president this morning in the presence of His Highness Shaykh Saqr Bin- Muhammad al-Qasimi, member of the UAE Supreme Council and governor of Ra's al-Khaymah.

Yemen

Salih Discusses Returning Nationals, Gulf Crisis

JN3010214290 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, has said that the political leadership in Yemen is still making efforts with brothers in Saudi Arabia, through Arab and international mediation, to solve the problem of the Yemeni expatriates in Saudi Arabia and drive the Saudi Government to reconsider its decision on the property of the expatriates and the damage inflicted on them. The Yemeni leadership, he added, is continuing its efforts with the Security Council to discuss Yemen's losses as a result of the Gulf crisis and Yemen's observance of the Council resolutions. This was stated by Chairman Salih in an interview with THE NEW YORK TIMES published Friday.

Chairman Salih explained that up to 24 October, the number of expatriates returning from Saudi Arabia reached some 520,000. Another 22,000 have returned from Kuwait, he said. He stressed that the government will provide all facilities and care to these returnees. The Yemenis, he said, are different from the people of the Arab or Islamic societies. When the Yemenis left their country, he explained, they had problems at home; there is no Yemeni without a house, a farm, a piece of land, or some real estate in his village or city. Now they return to their houses, which they managed to build while abroad, or to the farms they inherited from the family, or to the piece of land they managed to acquire. Each citizen has something through which to make a living, whether a store, a farm, a building, a car, or a bulldozer. We are not worried about the return of the expatriates. On the contrary, we are happy with their return, so that they can help in building the country while at home, as they helped build it while abroad.

The chairman of the Presidential Council added: We say that the return of the expatriates is a gain for the Yemeni people; perhaps it is a blessing in disguise. It is true that the Yemeni expatriates' possessions and savings abroad were harmed. It is known that the Yemenis owned stores, groceries, or real estate in Saudi Arabia. But as a result of the enforcement of the new laws there, the Yemenis were forced to sell their property cheaply. What was worth 10,000 riyals was sold for 1,000; and what was worth 5 million riyals was sold for 1 million; and what was worth 20 million riyals was sold for 5 million. This is the damage that was inflicted on the Yemeni expatriates.

Asked whether the measures were discussed with the Saudi officials or whether there is a dialogue to reconsider or discuss these measures, Chairman Salih said: We tried to contact them through some sisterly and friendly states, hoping they might reconsider their decision. But this was to no avail. One of the mediations was carried out by the United States, the Soviet Union, and a number of the Arab leaders, but we have not seen any response to date.

Asked about the current relations between our country and the United States, Chairman Salih stressed that the United States and Yemen have good relations. In response to a question about the current policy of our country, he said that the Yemeni policy is firm, but there is intentional distortion of Yemen's position on the Gulf crisis. Yemen is a nonaligned country with good relations with the Gulf states and Iraq. Considering or interpreting the Yemeni position, by some Arab or foreign countries, as biased toward Iraq is incorrect. Yemen is not biased, but it does not support the foreign presence in the Arabian Gulf and Peninsula.

Council Speaker Discusses Saudi Ties, Gulf Crisis

JN2810162490 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 26 Oct 90 p 4

[Interview with Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, speaker of the Council of Representatives, in London; date not given]

[Text] [AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] The Saudi Government last month adopted some measures against Yemenis working in Saudi Arabia which changed their legal residence status. This led to the return of about half a million Yemenis. How do you view these measures?

[Nu'man] I find them unjustifiable. Yemenis lived in Saudi Arabia before the oil era. They have helped build the kingdom and have never caused any domestic unrest. In fact, they contributed to the stability of the domestic situation.

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] But the Saudi measures come under the sovereignty of the country to change its laws. So, where is the problem in your opinion?

[Nu'man] The recent Saudi legal amendments made it incumbent on all Yemenis residing in Saudi Arabia to find a Saudi sponsor within one month as a condition of residence. Otherwise, they will lose all legal rights and be deported back to their country. Outwardly, the decision might look normal; practically, however, it constitutes a disaster. Imagine a million Yemenis seeking Saudi sponsors, especially since some of them have lived in the kingdom for more than 30 years without one. Certainly, they will find no sponsor, because the aim behind the decision is clear; namely, to deport them and not to make them stay.

The other harmful aspect of the Saudi measures is related to the sponsorship law which prevents any foreigner in Saudi Arabia—whether he is a Yemeni or not—from engaging in any commercial business. Applying this law to Yemenis means that the property and commercial enterprises of every Yemeni who owns a shop or engages in trade will be confiscated, or that ownership, which is registered in the name of the Saudi as a kind of cover, will be transferred in full to him.

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] Did you expect these measures?

[Nu'man] To tell you the truth, we did not expect them from the Saudi brothers. The sponsorship law was passed last year. When President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih visited Saudi Arabia at the time, King Fahd asserted to him that the law would not be applied to Yemenis, in view of the special role the Yemenis have played in the building and development of the kingdom and their good-neighborliness. The recent measures, however, proved the opposite.

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] Have you contacted Saudi officials to discuss the issue and resolve the problem?

[Nu'man] We have made attempts to contact them, but they have turned a deaf ear. We still hope that the kingdom will reverse its measures.

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] Do you expect these measures to have an effect on relations between the two countries? And how?

[Nu'man] If these measures continue, they would create deep wounds difficult to heal, especially since those who left the kingdom are flat broke and they suffered a lot during their stay abroad to earn a living. We admit that there might be differences in viewpoints regarding any issue. However, we have been accustomed to resolving differences on the basis of mutual interests and Islamic solidarity. But for the dispute to develop to this degree and harm more than 1 million Yemenis, their lives, and savings, is something that would lead to unclear developments concerning the future relations between the two countries, which we have always hoped would be good.

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] But Saudi Arabia has fears about the Yemeni position toward the Gulf crisis, especially since Sanaa has rejected the foreign forces and voted at the Cairo summit against sending Arab forces to Saudi Arabia.

[Nu'man] There is a deliberate misunderstanding of Yemen's position on the Gulf crisis. We have supported all international resolutions and adopted the same position others have adopted. We opposed foreign intervention, however, because it does not solve the problem, but complicates it. We have advocated a solution within the Arab framework, and said that the causes that led to the aggravation of the problem should be discussed. We have repeatedly said that we do not support the use of force to resolve regional disputes and the occupation of others' lands. Moreover, we voted at the Security Council against Iraq's annexation of Kuwait. We have also said that we do not want to be a party to an Arab-Arab dispute.

We contacted the Iraqi, Syrian, Palestinian, and Egyptian presidents, and the Jordanian monarch to search for an Arab solution, and we were on the verge of reaching such a solution. But we were surprised by the arrival of the foreign forces in the region. We frankly stated our opposition to their presence because we greatly fear for our security and pan-Arab security because of the presence of these forces.

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] Some view the presence of more than 1 million Yemenis in Saudi Arabia as a time bomb if the political disagreement between the two countries develops into more than just media campaigns. Do you not believe that these apprehensions are justified?

[Nu'man] These apprehensions are completely unjustified and are baseless from our point of view. This is because even in the direst circumstances and at the height of Saudi-Yemeni differences, the Yemenis had never constituted a fifth column. They safeguarded the kingdom's security and have been a factor of stability over the past years. However, if some seek justifications for this measure, then it is not difficult to find false justifications.

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] There were statements by an Arab diplomatic source that were highlighted by the Saudi press to the effect that Saudi Arabia is worried that Yemen will exploit the Gulf crisis to settle its border demands with Saudi Arabia. Is such a worry justified?

[Nu'man] Never has Yemen caused any border problems with Saudi Arabia, whether when Yemen was partitioned or when it was united. Following the establishment of unity, the parliament supported the government's policy statement, which declared that the unity state was ready to discuss border problems in accordance with the historical boundaries of the two countries. What is important is that the appropriate atmosphere becomes available for the discussion of this cause and any other causes that will contribute to stability in this region.

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] There were reports about the massing of troops on both sides of the Saudi-Yemeni borders. How true are these reports?

[Nu'man] I would like to point out that Yemen has been careful from the beginning of the Gulf crisis not to move any soldier to the border areas, even as part of routine measures the Armed Forces usually carry out, so that such a measure will not be misinterprted as having anything to do with the crisis. In spite of this, the Yemeni stand was slandered, distorted, and made the target of unfair media campaigns.

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] What do you have to say to reports that there are Iraqi missiles and aircraft on your territory?

[Nu'man] There are no Iraqi missiles and there never will be.

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] What stand will you adopt if war breaks out in the region and which camp will you join?

[Nu'man] We hope and pray that the foreign powers that have military bases in the region do not act rashly and resort to a military solution. However, if the ill-omened war erupts, then our duty is to safeguard Yemen and to defend its borders against any aggression from outside.

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] Do you expect that a war will erupt?

[Nu'man] Personally speaking and in view of my stands on wars, I would like no war to take place. I believe that a peaceful solution is the soundest solution because war will have dire consequences for the region, and it will harm only the people of this region, the cities and people of the region.

[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI] As part of the media campaigns there is talk about a Yemeni opposition and about contacts with representatives of this opposition. Does this worry you?

[Nu'man] I would like to reply to this by saying that never in its history has Yemen experienced a national unity as the one it is now experiencing. As for the forces that some papers call opposition, they are the ones that had brought about Yemen's backwardness and division. The resuscitation of the dead is a futile operation and is doomed to failure.

Saudi Arabia Accused of Media Campaign

JN3010192290 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1720 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] A responsible source has stated the following to SABA': The media in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have been launching provocative campaigns against our country without considering the simplest principles of good-neighborliness and Arab and Islamic brotherhood. They also exceeded all known rules in relations among states, let alone relations between fraternal countries. These irresponsible media campaigns were coupled with the well known arbitrary measures taken by the Kingdom's authorities against hundreds of thousands of the sons of our people in Saudi territories, as well as other measures, which have only harmed the special and historic relations between the two fraternal, neighboring countries, and have drawn the two countries into positions that do not serve good-neighborly relations or the joint interests of the Yemeni and Saudi peoples.

All this took place while our country tried to remedy the consequences of these measures and faced the unjust media campaign with much wisdom and self-restraint, based on eagerness to preserve the historic relations between our two peoples and on the need to channel all energies to promote safety and stability in the region, guarantee a peaceful Arab solution to the Gulf crisis, and provide real support for the brave popular intifadah of the Palestinian Arab people.

The responsible source added: We are confident that the attempts by Saudi media to hint that the Republic of Yemen harbors evil intentions against its brothers in Saudi Arabia will not convince anyone in the Kingdom. Every Yemeni will continue to harbor feelings of love toward his brothers in the Kingdom, as we do toward our brothers in the Arab and Islamic homeland, although some are trying to do the reverse. The responsible source concluded: If the Saudi Arabian media believe that this feverish campaign serves good-neighborliness and promotes cordiality and amity between the two fraternal peoples, let them continue their unjust campaign. But out of our responsibility, we in the Republic of Yemen will not be drawn to the lowly level of these media organs.

'Secret Front' Aide Claims Anti-Iraq Protests

PM3010150790 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Oct 90 pp 1, 4

[Rifqi al-Tayyib report: "Food, Petrol Demonstrations Break Out in Yemen"]

[Excerpts] London, Sanaa, news agencies— Huge demonstrations involving hundreds of Yemenis were staged yesterday and the previous days in the Yemeni capital in protest against the high prices of petroleum products and basic foodstuffs. [passage omitted] Riyad Husayn al-Qadi, secretary of the Secret Front for the Peoples of South Yemen and official spokesman of the Yemeni opposition, described the demonstrations staged in Sanaa, as the start of a popular explosion rejecting the Yemeni Government's official support for the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, which has badly harmed Yemeni nationals and the Yemeni people as a whole.

He told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone: It concerns the Yemeni opposition that all Yemenis feel that the regime ruling them has placed the interests of Yemen and the Yemenis with the Iraqi president and his supporters in Sanaa.

He added that the Yemeni opposition will carry arms against the present regime because it has damaged the Yemenis' interests and harmed their brothers and neighbors. On behalf of the Yemeni opposition forces he warned against importing more poison gas and chemical weapons into Yemen. He also called on all the political forces on the Yemeni scene to meet and discuss ways out of the dilemma in which Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has embroiled himself with a view to implementing Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's schemes, ignoring the Arab's prime cause, the Palestinian cause, and driving the Arabs into a labyrinth and into sedition harmful to the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Contrary to the Islamic tendencies belonging to some of the Arab regimes supporting Iraq in Algeria, Tunis, and Jordan against what they term "the U.S. presence in the region," "the Yemeni Reform Grouping" has condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in the newspaper AL-SAHWAH AL-ISLAMIYAH [ISLAMIC AWAKENING], its mouthpiece. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Popular Organizations Delegation Arrives

JN2810152290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Sanaa, 28 Oct (INA)—A delegation representing Iraqi popular and professional organizations arrived here today on a visit of several days to the Republic of Yemen. The delegation is led by Sa'dallah 'Atiyah Husayn, head of the general federation for cooperation.

Sa'dallah Husayn told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY that the delegation will hold talks with popular and professional organizations in the Republic of Yemen regarding ways to enhance brotherly relations in the service of the two countries.

He added that they will also review the situation on the Arab arena in light of the foreign military buildup in the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and the role of popular organizations in facing this buildup.

Envoy to UN Comments on Security Council Vote

JN3010204190 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Brother 'Abdallah al-Ashtal, representative of the Republic of Yemen to the United Nations, has affirmed that our country's abstention from voting on UN Security Council Resolution No. 674 holding Iraq responsible for paying the necessary compensation resulting from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait is in line with our principled stand since the eruption of the crisis. He added: Our country has been making efforts to contain the crisis within the Arab framework and secure the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

In explanations he made at the UN Security Council, he said that the peace plan our country and some member countries in the council had submitted has been aborted and distorted, and the ideas contained in it were obliterated, and it has become part of a punitive resolution. He said that war will have calamitous results on Kuwait and Iraq, and on the Arab homeland, as well as on the entire world. In spite of this, there are some in the region who are beating the war drums. Brother al-Ashtal explained that the Republic of Yemen has directly sufffered from the implementation of the sanctions resolution on Iraq. The losses of the Republic of Yemen have totaled some $1.38 billion, and there are about half a million Yemeni workers who were forced to return from a neighboring country, leaving behind their properties and funds, as well as the rights they have acquired over scores of years of hard work and diligence.

He reaffirmed the Republic of Yemen's position, which calls for not resorting to violence to solve conflicts. He said: We do not accept the recourse to violence to solve conflicts. We have called on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, and we have also called for settling the differences between Iraq and Kuwait through peaceful means and within the Arab framework.

Saddam Receives Senegalese Tijani Leader

JN3010202390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn today received (Sidi al-Amin Anyas), leader of the Tijani sect in Senegal. During the meeting, (Sidi al-Amin Anyas) denounced the presence of the forces of occupation and invasion in the Muslims' holy places. He stressed the need for efforts by all Muslims to purge these places of the American filth. He expressed appreciation for the leader president's militancy and paid tribute to Iraq's steadfastness in the face of American aggression.

The leader president praised (Sidi al-Amin Anyas)' stance and expressed his appreciation. He declared that Iraqis are seeing victory through hearts and minds before seeing it through their eyes and touching it with their hands. He said: We are not waiting for victory to come, but proceeding toward it with God's help.

The meeting was attended by 'Abdallah Fadil, minister of awqaf and religious affairs.

'Aziz 'Optimistic' on Peaceful Solution to Crisis

JN2910153090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] In a brief statement following the Soviet envoy's visit to Iraq today, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz emphasized that he is still optimistic over the possibility of reaching a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. This statement came following Primakov's departure for Saudi Arabia without any announcement on tangible results reached during his second visit to Iraq.

Envoy to UN Addresses Security Council

JN2910221390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2135 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] United Nations, 29 Oct (INA)—Iraq's permanent envoy to the United Nations delivered a speech at the Security Council tonight in which he asserted that the hasty resolutions that the Security Council issued in such a manner might lead to a dangerous trend whose first victim will be the United Nations and its credibility.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in New York quoted the Iraqi permanent representative as saying that there is a blatant contradiction between the Security Council resolutions and the UN Charter on the one hand, and the conduct of some of its members on the other.

He added that the Security Council is the first to blame. It is supposed to be working on behalf of the member states at the United Nations to guarantee international peace and security. Despite all this, the United States, however, keeps repeating daily that it will increase its military buildup and add more targets for its military force. Moreover, the United States has not concealed the reality of its intentions; namely, that it is preparing for an attack on Iraq under any pretext, although this conflicts with its obligations as a member of the United Nations and the Security Council.

He added that the simplest bases of justice mandate that each party to the dispute be given a chance to explain the rights he claims, his demands, and what he deems as appropriate to settle the dispute. The Council, however, has preferred to issue its resolutions without contacting Iraq or informing it of its consultations. In fact, these consultations were conducted secretly, and the resolutions were issued in a formula that is nearer to a request for surrender than an exhortation to peace.

The Iraqi permanent representative asserted that the United States in fact started massing its fleets and forces in the region even before the countries of the region asked for it. It also committed aggression and implemented a sea blockade, which is considered an act of war and of aggression according to the definition of aggression.

He pointed out that the UN Charter explicitly stipulates in Chapter VIII of Article 52 that the Security Council should encourage a peaceful settlement of local disputes through regional organizations. What was regrettable and dangerous, however, is that your esteemed Council has completely disregarded the presence of an Arab League, as it has disregarded all Arab initiatives calling for a peaceful Arab solution to the Gulf events. This disregard was not spontaneous or an incidental mistake, but a premeditated policy and an insistence on not allowing the regional organizations or any regional force to act or work independently of the will and interests of the United States. This also emphasizes the intent to commit aggression against Iraq, destroy the Arab League, perpetuate the occupation of the Arab oil fields, control navigation in the Arabian Gulf, and jeopardize the national security of Iraq and other Arab countries.

The permanent representative added that what confirms the United States' insistence on preventing peaceful Arab solutions and what confirms its economic and strategic ambitions in the region, in cooperation with the Zionist entity, is its disregard as well as the Council's disregard of President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative in which he called for the withdrawal of all military forces from the territories they are occupying.

All those wishing to encourage and support the sovereignty of law in international relations—and this is what we hope the new world order means—hoped that the Security Council would seize the golden opportunity presented by President Saddam Husayn's initiative to seriously devote time to drawing up unified rules and arrangements that would guarantee and facilitate the withdrawal of foreign forces from the lands of others.

The permanent Iraqi representative said: While Iraq reaffirms its desire to avert war and seeks to maintain peace, consolidate Arab solidarity, and resolve all regional problems in accordance with the Security Council resolutions, if your Council believes that peace and justice require the Council to apply its resolutions to all in accordance with Iraq's initiative on 12 August, it, at the same time, wants to emphasize its right and readiness to defend itself against any foreign aggression, especially against what the United States is willfully preparing through coordination and consultation with the Zionist entity.

Yemeni Representative to the United Nations 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Ashtal also delivered a speech in which he pointed out that there are some who are afraid of peaceful efforts because they want to deepen divisions and weaken the Arab nation while it is engaged in a conflict against Zionism. They are afraid of a peaceful solution because they want to destroy Iraq's military, economic, and political capabilities so as to serve Israeli policy and destroy Arab oil wealth.

He added that the intent behind the foreign presence in the Arabian Gulf is to maintain this presence for the longest period possible to benefit arms dealers and brokers.

The Cuban UN representative said in his speech that the outcome of the discussions that ended in a resolution against Iraq raises some questions; for instance, there was no need to adopt this resolution because it increases the difficulty of the UN secretary general's mission to resolve the crisis.

He added: We believe that Chapter VII of the Charter does not allow the Council to turn into a court. The only reference to this is in Article 92 which refers to the Court of Justice, and it is not in Chapter VII.

It is noteworthy that the Security Council tonight adopted another unjust resolution against Iraq under pressure of the United States and its allies in the Council.

The unjust resolution states that Iraq is to be held responsible for any damages in property or loss of human lives in Kuwait.

Thus, the degree of U.S. influence to steer the Security Council in the direction it wants in order to achieve its unfair, preplanned schemes according to the double-standard it has adopted, has become clearer.

The U.S. Administration engaged in delay and procrastination to obstruct a Security Council resolution on the Zionist massacre in the al-Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem, whose victims were tens of Palestinian martyrs and hundreds of injured.

Belgian Role in Air Base Construction Described

WA3010004090 Gent HET VOLK in Dutch 27-28 Oct 90 p 2

[Article by Fred Vandenbussche: "Belgians Helped Build Eight Air Bases During Gulf War; Iraqi Air Force Tough Nut To Crack"; all place-names as published; article accompanied by diagram of typical Iraqi Air Force base and map showing locations of six bases]

[Text] "The Iraqi Air Force is a tough nut to crack," says a Westerner who helped build eight bases in Iraq for French Mirage F-1 fighter planes during the Iran-Iraq Gulf War. One of the Belgian companies involved was Six Construct, the predecessor of the company presently called Besix, one of the largest construction companies in Belgium. Six Construct cooperated in Iraq with other European companies, including French and Italian ones, in a project worth billions (of Belgian francs), which was executed in two phases, each involving the construction of four complete air bases.

Six Construct, however, had already been involved in a risky civilian project in Iraq, whereby the construction of eight large housing blocks on Haifa Street in Baghdad had to be abandoned because of payment problems. This resulted in exorbitant damage claims and in the replacement of the mayor of Baghdad with a high-ranking military officer.

Six Bases

Project 505, the Iraqi code name, consisted of the construction and equipping of eight brand-new bases for the Iraqi Air Force. This project was begun in 1983, when the war with the ayatollah's Iran was raging. A number of West European companies cooperated in this project in order to provide the Iraqi Ministry of National Defense with eight new ultramodern bases in an extremely short time. By and large, Six Construct was responsible for the concrete infrastructure, except for the runways, which had already been built by the Iraqis themselves.

We can provide more or less exact locations for six of the eight bases: Talaffar (in the north of the country, near Mosul), Adhain (near Samarra, northwest of Baghdad), Al Hai (southeast of Baghdad), Alussuf (in the south, just north of Basara), KM 160 (at milepost No 160 on the road from Baghdad to Jordan), and Tuz (near Kirkuk, north of Baghdad).

The two other bases built by Western companies are presumed to be in the center of the country, west and east of the Tigris at the same latitude as the city of Samawa.

Ideal Configuration

These Air Force bases are all very much alike. Except for a few details in the foundations, they are identical: Squares with sides 5 to 6 kilometers long, surrounded by barbed wire, with one central entrance guarded by a heavily armed sentry post.

Inside the base, small asphalt roads connect personnel bunkers, a command post, a cross-shaped runway at least 3 km in length, a small control tower, four large ammunition bunkers, eight fuel tanks, one large and one small power station (with generators capable of supplying all the base's electrical requirements), and 12 concrete hangars, built in four groups of three, one at the end of each runway.

This looks like an ideal configuration for an Air Force base: The vital areas and the aircraft hangars are at a considerable distance from each other, making them less vulnerable to air attacks. Moreover, the buildings' construction alone makes them fairly resistant to attacks: They have concrete walls and ceilings at least half a meter thick. The power station is additionally protected against air attacks by a clay bulwark several meters high.

Tough Nut

In addition, the roofs are covered by a layer of Iraqi desert clay, solidified with lime, approximately half a meter thick. This makes the buildings especially difficult to detect from the air, since everything is camouflaged with a thick layer of sand-covered material.

Each base is designed for a staff of approximately 300 men. Contrary to U.S. intelligence beliefs, the aircraft are not kept underground but at ground level, concealed in 10-to-12 meter-high concrete hangars covered with clay. Observations based on data from spy satellites, however, could give the impression that the aircraft emerge "from under the ground, as described by U.S. intelligence circles.

"Whether they are at ground level or underground makes no difference," says the person who was involved in the construction of the bases. "The layers of concrete and clay are not only virtually invisible from the air, but also highly resistant to almost any kind of artillery. The Iraqi Air Force is a particularly tough nut to crack, even for the United States."

Stronghold

The Iraqi Air Force is equipped with Soviet MiGs and French F-1 Mirages. The latter could be tough opponents for ground troops and the Navy, since they are equipped with the infamous Exocet missiles.

U.S. strategists have always assumed that a war against Saddam Hussayn's Iraq can only be successful if, from the outset, domination of the air is gained. This means that the American, French, and British troops (and their Arab allies) must be able to eliminate the entire Iraqi Air Force in one try, at the outbreak of hostilities.

Now that Iraq's aircraft, with the help of Western companies and technology, seem to be protected by solid strongholds, a war as envisioned by the United States seems unlikely. The Pentagon now seems to realize that a widespread armed conflict will inevitably result in heavy losses for Western troops as well. Perhaps this is the best remedy to prevent both antagonists from launching a fight.

Further on Sweden's Stevenson Delegation

Leader Condemns Blockade

JN2910134890 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] The Swedish peace messengers delegation has described leader President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative as a good initiative which will bring about peace in the region and avert the specter of war in the Gulf. During his meeting with newsmen today, Everett Stevenson [name as heard], the head of the Swedish delegation, affirmed that diplomatic negotiations are the best way to solve the region's problems and bring peace to it.

He also condemned the economic blockade imposed on Iraq by the United States and its allies and preventing milk and medicine from reaching Iraqi children. He also said that he met with a number of Iraqi officials and felt that they were serious in seeking peace in the region and averting war, adding that they are determined to defend Iraq.

Meets 'Aziz

JN3010131190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Oct (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz received today Everett Stevenson, Swedish parliament member, representative of the Swedish Social Democratic Labor Party, and chairman of the Swedish-Palestinian Friendship society, and his delegation, currently visiting Iraq.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on the current situation in the Arabian Gulf, and stressed the need to reach a just and comprehensive peaceful solution to all the region's problems based on President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative.

Six Swedes Permitted To Leave

LD3010215190 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 2100 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Excerpts] First, we have a report from Baghdad. As it became clear this evening, six more Swedes will be allowed to leave Iraq.

A group of Swedish Riksdag members will be able to take six Swedes from Baghdad with them. The six were picked out by the Iraqis from among those Swedes over 55 years of age. [passage omitted]

Last week Foreign Ministry envoy Peter Osvald took five Swedes with him [words indistinct], now the Riksdag delegation will be able to take another six out of the country. Four of them come from Kuwait, and two of them were living in Baghdad. The Swedish Riksdag delegation will fly out of the country as soon as Wednesday with the released hostages. The Riksdag members said this evening that they were glad to be able to take the six Swedes with them, but after seeing the situation of the Swedes here during the visit to Baghdad, they cannot forget the 78 Swedes still left here, and they will continue to work for their release.

'Clearer' Libyan Stand Sought on U.S. Threat

JN2810090890 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 26 Oct 90 p 1

[By Mahmud Ma'ruf from AL-QUDS AL'ARABI bureau in Rabat]

[Text] AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has learned that Iraq sent back two Libyan planes loaded with food and medical supplies recently dispatched by the Libyan Government. Informed Libyan sources said that Baghdad told Tripoli that what it needs is a clearer position toward the U.S. military threat to Iraq.

The sources said the Iraqi stand was an expression of its dissatisfaction with the Libyan stance which has not given the same attention to the dangers of the direct and intensive U.S. presence in the Arabian Gulf as it has to the need for the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi recently said that he has obtained guarantees from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to work for the withdrawal of the U.S. forces from the Gulf following Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait. The Libyan leader's statements were understood as a call for Iraqi withdrawal without the condition of a prior or simultaneous withdrawal of U.S. and Western forces. Moreover, Libya, which participated in the Cairo summit, voiced reservations on the resolutions on the Gulf crisis, and participated in the emergency meetings of the Arab League Council in Cairo, has announced an initiative to resolve the crisis within the Arab framework. Iraq did not object to this initiative. Observers, however, have noticed that Tripoli has not intensified its contacts to secure support for its initiative, contrary to Amman, Sanaa, and the PLO which have pursued endeavors to secure this solution. It has also been noticed that Egyptian-Libyan visits and contacts have increased, especially in the military field, at a time when Cairo feels uneasy about any Arab solution to the Gulf crisis.

The Libyan sources told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that Tripoli—which finds in the increase of oil prices that resulted from the Gulf crisis a chance to ride out the economic crisis it has experienced—has been eager to adopt a stand that does not conflict drastically with the U.S. Administration, after it was told by senior Arab officials who have strong links with Washington that any Libyan position in favor of Iraq will prompt the U.S. Administration to take steps that might lead to political changes in Libya.

The sources also asserted that the Libyan opposition, which was supported by the U.S. Administration during the first days of the Gulf crisis—at a time when the Libyan media and the statements made by Libyan officials declared an unequivocal position denouncing the U.S. presence in the Gulf—carried out a number of violent actions and assassinated Libyan security figures, which have not been announced. The sources asserted, moreover, that a prominent security figure close to the Libyan president was assassinated during that period. It is worth noting that Libyan Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has launched a fierce campaign in recent weeks against extremist religious groups and accused them of plotting against Libya.

U.S., U.K 'Piracy' Protested at UN

JN3110083990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] Iraq has strongly denounced and protested acts of aggression and piracy carried out by foreign forces against Iraqi tankers in the Arabian Gulf. This came in a letter sent by Iraq's permanent UN representative to the UN secretary general, and distributed at the United Nations yesterday as an official UN Security Council document.

In the protest letter, Iraq's representative said that the tanker crew members were beaten violently last Sunday by the hostile American and British forces, and that this led to the injury of one of the crew and to breaking the tanker's doors and windows. He added that five American and British gunboats surrounded the tanker, whose captain refused to stop. The hostile force then fired five 5-mm rounds at the tanker, and four American helicopters landed on the tanker and disembarked 30 soldiers, who were armed to the teeth and protected by an F-14 fighter plane. These soldiers detained the tanker's crew by force, leaving its captain and radio officer behind closed doors. He pointed out that the hostile force broke the doors, arrested the radio officer, tied up the captain, and led the tanker to an Omani port when radio communications with it was cut off.

In this letter, Iraq called on the international community to stop these barbaric American and British acts, and to take the necessary measures.

Saddam Chairs General Command Meeting

JN2910192190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has chaired a meeting of the Armed Forces General Command. Defense Minister Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal and Industry and Military Industrialization Minister Husayn Kamil Hasan attended the meeting.

Saddam Issues Orders on Agricultural Measures

JN2710202690 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 25 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] AL-JUMHURIYAH has learned that His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has ordered that scientific advice about seeds, fertilizer, and preventive measures intended to enhance agricultural production be couched in simple, easy to understand language. He also instructed that tips distributed in the northern region be written in the Kurdish language.

Khalid al-Badr, president of the general union of peasant cooperatives, told an AL-JUMHURIYAH reporter that his excellency had ordered the Ministries of Agriculture and Irrigation and of Industry and Military Industrialization, and the general federation of peasant cooperatives, to coordinate their effort to acquire components for tractors and combines from the agricultural equipment company, in order for workshops built by the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization in the governorates to be able to do the necessary repairs.

His excellency the leader president also ordered that the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation sell tractors collected from government agencies and the socialist sector to peasants and farmers in coordination with governors, and that fertilizer be transported to the centers of governorates ahead of their distribution to peasants.

Kindergartens Implement New Food System

JN2810150290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Oct (INA)— In cooperation with families, kindergartens in Iraq have started implementing a new food system designed to provide wholesome meals for infants made of locally-produced foodstuffs.

The headmistress of kindergartens in Iraq told INA that the new system primarily aims at breaking the economic blockade imposed upon the unyielding children and people of Iraq. She added that they had managed through research and studies to prepare a complete meal to be offered to kindergarten students. The meal comprises the basic food elements that help to build up and develop the body.

She also said that the Directorate of Kindergartens has adopted a programmed system to make this experiment a success and to extend it to all kindergartens in Iraq.

Also, expanded seminars have been held for parents to explain what their role is in countering the economic blockade and cooperating with kindergartens to bring up children in a wholesome way.

Paper Cites American Opposition to Bush Policy

JN2910173090 Baghdad INA in English 1115 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 29, INA—President George Bush's Gulf honeymoon is over. The "solid unanimity" which he vested on himself is dwindling as anti-war sentiment is taking root in the American street day by day.

THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER has editorialized that Bush bombastic language can no longer dupe the American into believing the President's over-simplistic arguments. "Hell no, we won't go, we won't fight for Texaco", these protesting words were but evidence of the Bush's failure to put through his message that the U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia were not intended to fight for oil.

Reports are emerging on almost a daily basis of mounting opposition to the U.S. buildup in the Arab Gulf.

But this time, it is not the American street but the House of Representatives. Eighty-one Democratic members of the U.S. House of Representatives have signed a statement strongly opposing any offensive against Iraq.

The tide is against Bush now. There is no doubt about that. The U.S. President has obviously used up all his argumentation prowess in the early days of the crisis, managing to muster "promising" but "casual" support which has started to show signs of collapse.

The numbered [as received] voices that recently heckled Bush during his congressional election campaign have become a trend, a movement. Those "some who do not get the word" are now a force that is certainly giving the U.S. President a lot of headache.

President Bush should have said it pointblank to the Americans that he had sent the U.S. troops to occupy oil wells, to keep the "oil flow uninterrupted", to get the lifeline of U.S. economy at prices he can decide at will.

Had the U.S. President made his point without this longwinded and twisted way, he probably would have received some solid support which might have withstood the ups and downs of the crisis. He might have received support for his frankness and outspokenness.

However, his polemics were too fragile to stand the odds of this situation. There is a consensus in the United States, but a different one from that which Mr Bush boasted: a consensus that American troops are on the other side of the hemisphere not to protect American interests, but the interests of oil-rich sheikhs and U.S. oil firms. This is the nitty-gritty of the whole thing.

The tens of thousands who recently marched against the U.S. policy are only the beginning. Bush would eventually have to shout to make himself heard.

Paper Criticizes Thatcher's 'Discriminatory Views'

JN3010153090 Baghdad INA in English 1210 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, Oct.30, INA—THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER said here today that of all Western leaders in Europe, the British prime minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, has been the most hostile towards Iraq in her statements and attacks. She spares no opportunity to unveil her hate for Iraq, and the mildest of her comments on the so-called Gulf crisis appears to be as bitter as venom.

It said that Thatcher's only concern is Iraq. She does not hesitate to give discriminatory views, so explicitly, on the Middle East region by singling out Iraq in her call for eliminating mass destruction weapons. "We shall have to consider how to deal with the chemical weapons, biological weapons and nuclear weapons which Iraq has", said Thatcher.

The Iraqi daily added that Mrs Thatcher ignores the fact that Iraq has called for the elimination of all mass destruction weapons in the Middle East region, but this kind of elimination should be undertaken by all parties in the region, including Israel, which occupies Palestinian and other Arab territories.

It pointed out that over the past four decades, it has been Israel that has threatened peace and security in the region and the world. It is Israel that has occupied and still occupies others' territories and it is Israel whose policy is based on intimidation and terrorism of a whole people, the Palestinian people.

The daily further stressed that it is Margaret Thatcher and other politicians in the West that are backing Tel Aviv at world forums and making sure no sanctions are imposed on Israel. If Mrs Thatcher is really concerned for peace, she should be fair and urge her Israeli allies to eliminate their mass destruction arsenal and give back the Palestinian people their legitimate rights to independence and freedom.

One thing remains for sure: Thatcher will be disappointed if she wants Iraq to be destroyed. She'll never see that happen, the daily concluded.

Opposition Organizations Reach Agreement

PM3010153390 London AL-ZAHIRAH in Arabic 27 Oct 90 p 3

[Unattributed report: "What Happened at Secret Iraqi Meeting in Damascus?"]

[Excerpt] AL-ZAHIRAH, exclusive—Iraqi political organizations opposed to the regime—they are usually based in Damascus and Tehran—have reached an initial agreement which they are anxious should represent most of the organized and known groups outside Iraq. This is in the knowledge that some of these organizations have real internal extensions, while others have a formal presence in exile.

The agreement stipulates the formation of a leadership committee comprising 17 figures representing their organizations: The Islamic movement, the Kurdish movement, the Iraqi Communist Party, the pro-Syrian Ba'th Party, and some of the elements granted asylum in Damascus.

The agreement in question stipulates that the Islamists be represented by eight people in that committee. They belong to the Islamic Call Party, Organization for Islamic Action, and the mujahidin movement.

These three Islamic organizations are dominated by the Shiite orientation and have been joined, for the first time, by the organizations dominated by the Sunni orientation. They are represented by Muhammad al-Alusi, currently residing in the Gulf. He belongs to the Islamic Party in Iraq. The Islamic movement in Kurdistan (a Kurdish movement) is also represented.

As for the other elements, nine of them, they have been represented as follows: Four seats for the Kurdish movement, including Jalal al-Talabani, Mas'ud al-Barzani, and Mahmud 'Uthman.

The other five seats are given to the secular organizations like the communists, the Ba'thists, the socialists, and the independents.

The organizations also agreed to elect an executive committee comprising seven people on which the Islamists have three seats and the secularists the other four.

And it was decided to postpone the election of these seven until the next opposition conference, which it was agreed will be held in a month's time. [passage omitted]

Opposition Figure Describes Anti-Saddam Program

PM3110102590 London AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 25 Oct 90 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Opposition Agrees in Damascus To Topple Saddam"—formerly Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI]

[Text] Damascus, AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI—Views have been brought much closer among the Iraqi opposition parties currently meeting in Damascus to negotiate the formation of an opposition front. And a programmatic document will be signed very soon. It will be used as a joint action program for all Iraqi opposition currents.

A reliable Iraqi opposition source has told AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI that the extensive and enlarged meetings held in Damascus over a month have produced numerous agreements. And some of the outstanding points are currently being negotiated to secure a final settlement.

The source believes that the programmatic document will be signed soon. He said: The principal issues have been agreed upon, namely toppling the present Iraqi regime, the specific features of future conditions in Iraq, and other Iraqi issues related to political freedoms (pluralism), lifting the state of emergency, and agreement—after the regime has been toppled—on the formation of a transitional government whose aim is to grant political freedoms and work toward drafting a permanent constitution within a democratic and parliamentary framework and guaranteeing the Kurdish people's national rights through implementation of the 11 March 1970 agreement.

That statement was regarded as the physical foundation on which the law on self-rule for the Kurdistan region of

Iraq was based in 1974, but the present government has emptied that law of its true content.

The source added: It is also important to declare that all the negotiating parties have agreed on a position on the Kuwaiti crisis, namely by including in the document clear condemnation of the occupation and annexation of Kuwait and demanding the Iraqi forces' unconditional withdrawal.

The source said that it has also been agreed to define a clear position on the issue of Arab solidarity and unity, to support the Palestinian cause, Arab and world liberation movements as well as Islamic solidarity and unity, and to ensure that a future Iraq is an independent and unhumiliated Iraq.

The source named the Iraqi political currents participating in the Iraqi opposition meetings in Damascus. He said that they represent all the Iraqi opposition parties, that is, four trends: the democratic trend represented at the meetings by the Iraqi Communist Party, the pan-Arab trend represented by the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party (Iraq), the Kurdish trend represented by the Kurdish Front, and the Islamic trend represented by the Islamic Call Party, the Action Organization, and the Mujahidin Movement.

The source said that the dialogue being conducted at the meetings is focusing on the two subjects: The first is an action mechanism within the framework of the alliance, or what is known as the internal rules organizing the relationship among the cooperating parties and the nature of their representation. The second is to agree on a programmatic document for the present stage and to topple the Saddamite dictatorship and then—after it has been toppled—to form a transitional coalition government to assume temporary control of affairs.

New Opposition Party Formed, Statement Issued

LD3010145990 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Excerpts] London, 30 Oct (SPA)—The president of the new Iraqi Ummah Party, Sa'd Salih Jabr, has affirmed the Iraqi people's rejection of Saddam Husayn's transgressions both inside and outside Iraq and particularly after the treacherous aggression on Kuwait.

In a press statement made in London today, Sa'd Salih Jabr said that the Iraqi Army is filled with sorrow and pain for the fate of Iraq and its people after they became a source of hatred for the whole world, a thing which neither the people nor the army will accept.

He added that Saddam is going through a real crisis and that the best proof of his fear of the army's wrath is the fact that he is constantly going into hiding, moving from one shelter to another, and refusing to appear in public except on very brief occasions so that people will not say that he is in hiding. [passage omitted]

The party leader affirmed that Saddam is determined to produce nuclear warheads and biological weapons which will bring devastation and ruin to Iraq and its people, and consequently Saddam is a source of threat not only to Iraq, the Arabs, and the Muslims but also to the whole world. [passage omitted]

Referring to the increasing liquidation of commanders and men of the Iraqi Army, he said that these liquidations will continue as long as Saddam remains at the head of the state. He affirmed that Saddam's purpose behind these liquidations is to frighten the Armed Forces against taking any action against him.

He said that the latest of these acts was the dismissal of the chief of staff of the Iraqi Army, Abd al-Karim al-Khazraji, who is reported to have been removed from his post and placed under house arrest. [passage omitted]

Speaking of the aim of his party, he said that the New Ummah Party is an independent political movement which believes in human rights and the guaranteeing of individual and social freedom and respect for the sovereignty of countries neighbouring Iraq as well as respect for international law.

He said that the Iraqi people love peace and stability and do not want enmity with their brothers and friends.

Opposition Says Saddam 'To Seek Refuge'

LD3110072190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0305 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 31 Oct—This morning's Saudi papers carry the following headlines: [passage omitted] Iraqi opposition sources say Saddam is preparing to seek refuge either in France or Australia. [passage omitted]

Recriminations After U.S. Postpones Guarantee

*TA3110070790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0600 GMT 31 Oct 90*

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Secretary of State Baker is again signaling in the most obvious and poignant manner: The United States is not ready to accept a less than unified stance on the issue of the status of the territories and of East Jerusalem.

Israeli sources noted today that despite the postponement of the guarantees, Jerusalem has received no official request for additional clarifications regarding its assurances. Official sources confirmed, at the same time, that the delegation scheduled to come here to discuss guarantee details will not do so for the time being. The subject is being dealt with, said the Jerusalem Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Political elements estimated that the delay in receiving guarantees stems from the multitude of divergent voices on the East Jerusalem issue emanating from the Israeli Government.

Baker's decision has caused an argument and mutual recriminations inside Israel. Some Foreign Ministry elements pointed an accusing finger at the remarks of Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon, who said that the Green Line no longer exists in Jerusalem. They further contended that the remarks of Yosi Ben-Aharon, the Prime Minister's Office director general, were detrimental, as were Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's remarks as reported by Tehiya leaders.

Conversely, sources close to the prime minister have said that the letter of clarifications which Levi furnished to Baker may have been misunderstood by Washington. This squabble does no good to anyone, and everything is being done to settle it discreetly, the prime minister's aides said last night.

In the meantime, no funds are forthcoming. We should stress that although the issue is a mere $400 million at this point, Israel would like to receive guarantees for additional credit of billions of dollars on the basis of the same $400 million. The prime minister, sources in Jerusalem said, will have to put his house in order and decide on a single, clear government line. Shamir's circle pointed out that if asked by the Americans to cosign the assurances letter, the prime minister will consider the request.

Shoval Comments on Situation

*TA3110074090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0600 GMT 31 Oct 90*

[Telephone interview with Zalman Shoval, Israel's ambassador to Washington, by Mikha Friedman and Goni Mardor—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning, Ambassador Zalman Shoval.

[Shoval] A very good morning to you.

[Friedman] We would like to understand: Are the Americans no longer satisfied with what David Levi promised James Baker in that famous letter of assurances? Are they now demanding explicit clarifications by Yitzhaq Shamir himself to the effect that Israel does not intend to use the funds covered by the U.S. guarantee in the Jewish neighborhoods in Jerusalem beyond the Green Line? Is this the situation?

[Shoval] No. The situation is that the Americans are absolutely satisfied with the letter provided by Foreign Minister Levi. Certain questions have arisen as a result of unauthorized reports from Israel. I believe the matter has been settled, and if a few snags still remain, they are of a technical nature; it is possible that they exist only between various U.S. Government offices. I do not see the matter as a problem.

[Friedman] When you refer to unauthorized reports from Israel, you must mean the declarations by Prime Minister Shamir and Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon in favor of building housing projects for immigrants in East Jerusalem.

[Shoval] No, there is no connection. The Americans never demanded—nor have they ever assumed that they could pose such a demand—that we abstain from building beyond the Green Line, and certainly not in East Jerusalem. They have never presented such a demand. All they wanted—and they have a right to that—is to make sure that we do not use the funds for which they provided guarantees, the $400 million, for construction beyond the Green Line. They have never demanded, however, that we abstain from building there with our own funds.

It should be understood that $400 million is a drop in the ocean in the aggregate construction for immigrants and locals which Israel proposes to carry out in the next few years. We are talking here about many billions. No matter how important the $400 million is, that sum is very, very far from representing the entire issue.

[Mardor] Why then, Mr. Shoval, is the secretary of state postponing the dispatch of the U.S. delegation that was scheduled to come here to finalize the details of the funds?

[Shoval] Because all those questions, clarifications, and inquiries—which are mainly technical—were only raised over the weekend, when the U.S. secretary of state was not in Washington, as you know. He was away making an important speech in Los Angeles, and he came back only today. Everyone was only waiting for his final stamp of approval. As I said, I see no further problems. I believe the matter will be settled.

[Mardor] What do you term technical details, Mr. Shoval?

[Shoval] They have to send a delegation, and the delegation must be composed from diverse elements. Although this may seem unbelievable to you, U.S. has its own considerable bureaucracy. I think these problems will be settled within a few days.

[Friedman] Mr. Shoval, the Americans demanded—and David Levi made a distinct commitment on the issue—that Israel inform the administration of its settlement plans. Is this commitment still valid?

[Shoval] The Israeli Government will adhere to every commitment made by the State of Israel through its foreign minister and with the approval of the entire cabinet, including the prime minister, and the U.S. State Department knows this. They accepted the commitment in the spirit in which it was made.

[Friedman] The reason I asked is that the Americans received reports that Yitzhaq Shamir had told—ostensibly or not—Tehiya members that Israel does not intend to report to the Americans its settlement plans beyond the Green Line.

[Shoval] The Americans realize that we have a free press, that we have pluralistic politics, and that remarks are made in various forums....

[Mardor, interrupting] Which makes the work of the Israeli ambassador in the United States more difficult?

[Shoval, continuing] ....and at various moments. The United States, like any other normal country, accepts the government's official statements as made by official government representatives.

[Mardor] Mr. Shoval, so far the United States has not accepted the Zamir commission's conclusions—at least not those saying that the policemen had no choice but to use live gunfire. In what was so far a reference to segments of the report, they expressed displeasure with various issues. James Baker, who is due to arrive in the region, will not visit Israel.

[Shoval] Well, yes, let us separate these two issues. It is true that the U.S. State Department has issued only a partial reaction to our report. As far as their stands go, spokeswoman Tutwiler's comment contained no new elements compared with previous declarations issued by the U.S. President and secretary of state two weeks or so ago. The State Department spokeswoman did say that the United States would have preferred—I stress, preferred—to see a delegation sent here. No reaction has been made so far, however, to the Israeli Government's repeated decision not to accept a UN envoy or delegation. I do not know what other decisions will be made in the forthcoming days, if any; they will depend on what happens in the United Nations. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker had not intended to visit Israel during this tour of the region in the first place, but speaking yesterday in Los Angeles, he announced his plan to visit Israel in the very near future. We hope the visit will indeed be made. Whenever he arrives, he will be a most welcome visitor to Israel.

[Friedman] Ambassador Zalman Shoval, thank you very much.

[Shoval] Thank you and all the best.

U.S. Said 'Settling for' Zamir Commission Report

TA3110102490 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 31 Oct 90 pp 1, 4

[Report by U.S.-based correspondent Dalya Shehori and Moti Bassok]

[Excerpts] Washington—Yesterday the State Department welcomed the publication of the Zamir commission's report on the events on the Temple Mount and leveled criticism at the finding that the use of live gunfire and rubber bullets was justified under the circumstances in which human lives were endangered. [passage omitted]

"We will not trade polemics with the United States, either through official spokesmen or other representatives. We will use diplomatic venues to tell the Americans whatever it is that we have to say. Yesterday's remarks by the State Department spokeswoman intimated that the United States is settling for [mistapeqet] the Zamir report," Yosi Ahime'ir, director general of the prime minister's bureau, said yesterday.

Press Commentary on Zamir Commission Findings

TA2810123690

[Editorial Report] All the major Hebrew-language Israeli dailies, and THE JERUSALEM POST in English, carry in their 28 October 1990 issues commentaries and editorials on the findings of the Zamir commission into the 8 October Temple Mount killings, as well as the official summary of the report. The op-ed pages, however, mostly provide factual accounts of the report and its recommendations, but all agree that the root of the problem is the commission's mandate. Since it was not appointed by an independent Supreme Court justice it did not enjoy the authority and power to make far-reaching recommendations, which have been left to the political echelon.

Under the headline: "Kosher But Insipid," Dan Margalit writes on page B1 of HA'ARETZ that "the three distinguished gentlemen confirmed what was already known and cast a long shadow on the points still in doubt." He asserts that the commission's findings are not sufficient to reassure the international arena, "not even for the United States, which wants to put an end to the anti-Israeli resolutions in the Security Council, but the report's 60 pages do not provide it with a good enough excuse to stop its UN activities."

Margalit maintains that while there is no certainty that the United States would have approved the report had it been presented by a commission headed by a Supreme Court justice, "there is no chance that Washington will trust a report signed by an inquiry team appointed by the government itself to investigate one of its own branches." Therefore, "the chances are nil at this stage that the political witch hunt at the United Nations in New York will end."

The commentary claims that the Zamir report also disappointed Prime Minister Shamir on the internal political front since he had hoped it would recommend the dismissal of Police Commissioner Ya'aqov Terner. The SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] party had demanded Terner's dismissal over the police investigation of corruption charges against Interior Affairs Minister Arye Der'i. Now "the hot potato will be left in Police Affairs Minister Milo's hands, and he will have to decide on Terner's dismissal."

In an editorial entitled "The Ball is Back in the Political Echelon's Court," YEDI'OT AHARONOT on page two writes that an inquiry commission can only "clarify the facts, point to the failures, decide on those who bear responsibility, and recommend organizational changes, but must avoid making personal recommendations about those it believes have failed in the performance of their duty. Therefore, those who thought that the Zamir commission would go beyond its mandate and punish the guilty were disappointed."

The editorial declares that it is now up to the prime minister and the ministers for police affairs and justice to draw the right conclusions on the basis of the commission's findings. It asserts that "on the most significant question the commission did not give the public a clear and firm answer: Whether during the break-in to the Temple Mount the forces could not have been restrained and could not have held back fire from the rioting mob. The only sure thing understood from the report is that they did not have to break in that way. The lack of clarity on that point will not improve our situation in the confrontation with Washington and the United Nations which is not yet over."

The MA'ARIV editorial on page A12 approves of the commission's recommendation to station a permanent force on the Temple Mount and at all the gates leading to the Mount, and to improve coordination between police and other security elements. It expresses surprise, however, at the recommendation to set up a special ministerial committee for security in Jerusalem, and adds: "The worst recommendation is to set up an operational command to advise the police affairs minister, which is an invitation for unending friction with the police command."

DAVAR in its page seven editorial called "The Shamir, Not the Zamir Commission," contends that the commission produced a to-be-expected report. "In short, the commission enables those who appointed it to forget about their own performance in the affair since, of course, the Arabs are guilty and the police are responsible, while the government and the person who heads it had no part in the sequence of events."

The editorial concludes by saying: "The opposition to Shamir in the Knesset must try to round up a majority for a vote of no confidence over the affair and the report. With all due respect to the members of the commission and their hard work, this was not a Zamir commission, but a Shamir commission."

'AL HAMISHMAR in its editorial entitled "The Need To Draw Personal Conclusions" on page seven asserts that "it is clear from the report, although it is not stated outright, that the Government of Israel is responsible for security under the law on the safety of the holy places and based on its overall responsibility to maintain the rule of law in the state. It is therefore clear that Prime Minister Shamir cannot hide behind the responsibility of the operational level, the mistaken evaluations about the situation, and the errors in the proper deployment of police forces. He must first and foremost draw personal conclusions."

THE JERUSALEM POST, in its page four editorial, writes that the commission could not go into the political purpose and consequences of events like the Temple Mount riot. "Since such riots are perpetrated solely for political effect, preparedness is required on the public information level as well. A central source, to which all news from the event flows, and where all local and foreign media can get up-to-date information, has to be established. The commission's report makes clear that the foreign press gave a wholly distorted picture of the events; part of the fault was the incompetence and confusion of the various police spokesmen."

Palestinians Characterize Report as 'Whitewash'

TA2810141990 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Oct 90 p 2

[Report by Jon Immanuel] txt
[Text] Reaction among the few Palestinians who have examined the Zamir commission report on the Temple Mount killings in detail was unequivocal. "It really reads like a whitewash," said journalist Da'ud Kuttab.

Leading Palestinian activist Faysal al-Husayni and lawyers from the Ramallah-based al-Haqq human rights center said they only had impressions at this stage, after glancing at the Hebrew report. Al-Husayni said that "my evaluation is that there is nothing new. It was not a committee of investigation."

Al-Husayni disputed the assertion of the report that, in its interviews with seven wounded, the three-man team had found none who had been shot in the back. "They interviewed seven out of more than 100 who were injured," al-Husayni said, "and doctors reported that two of those who died were shot in the back."

Kuttab questioned several "omissions" from the report. "The report says that no orders to shoot were given until 11 a.m., but that doesn't mean that no one was shot at and even killed before the order... Doctors reported people lying on the ground dead and wounded.

"It seems amazing that the report can say the rioting started when mosque loudspeakers blared 'kill the Jews,' yet we know nothing about Israeli police having looked for a person who had access to the loudspeakers."

Kuttab added that, while the report says that police fired in self-defense and most people died between al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, it does not point out that they died there because police were shooting from the nearby Border Police headquarters, "which is well fortified."

Al-Haqq said it is preparing its own detailed official response. A film taken by an unidentified American, who has since left the country, covers the events on the Temple Mount from shortly after shooting began and continues almost 30 minutes.

The film's strength is less in the sounds it captures than the scenes it shows.

Several bursts of automatic gunfire, lasting for a few seconds at a time, can be heard clearly from about 15 minutes after the police rushed back into the compound through the Moors' Gate.

The voices from mosque loudspeakers shout repeatedly, "Stop shooting! Allahu Akbar! [Arabic for God Is Great] Stop the slaughter! What are you doing? Everyone enter the mosques. People are shooting at you from the Mahkamah (Border Police headquarters)." As the minutes pass, the gunfire becomes more intense.

There is no hint throughout the 30-minute film of anyone shouting "Jihad" or "Slaughter the Jews," although it is conceivable that such calls were made before the camera began rolling.

Arab Paper Sees No 'Surprise' in Inquiry Results

TA3010163990 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Oct 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Zamir, the Adversary and the Umpire!"]

[Text] We do not intend to appraise, nor should we, the results reached by the Israeli commission of inquiry, known as the Zamir commission, about the al-Aqsa events on 8 October, because these results express a one-sided view of the tragedy and a prejudiced evaluation of the circumstances that led to the events, as well as of their outcome. These results are no surprise to us or to anyone acquainted with the mentality that governs Israel's leaders; rather, it would have been a surprise had the commission reached a different conclusion.

Despite all that we know, however, we intend to appraise these results—as we should—from another perspective, based on the makeup of the commission, the investigations it conducted, its visits to the scene of the events—which bespeaks a horrifying tragedy—and the interviews the commission conducted with Palestinian doctors, witnesses, and the wounded. The commission paid not the slightest attention to all the information provided to it or to the effects of the tragedy it witnessed.

If the Israeli Government has full confidence in the Zamir commission results, what then are the justifications for its obstinacy and refusal to receive the international commission of inquiry called for by UN Security Council Resolutions 672 and 673?

AL-FAJR Warns of 'Explosion' by Arab Nations

TA3010205490 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 29 Oct 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Arab Peoples Send Their First Messages"]

[Text] At a time when the Cairo-based newspaper AL-AHRAM reports that U.S. President George Bush is to visit Egypt and Saudi Arabia during the next few days—apparently as part of preparations for war in the Gulf—the Egyptian authorities are facing a serious nightmare, this time as a result of the growing popular sentiment against this war, which will mean shedding Arab blood by some of the hands concealed behind the Arab regimes. News agencies reported recently that the Egyptian Army, some of whose battalions and divisions have been dispatched to the Arabian Peninsula to be deployed alongside the invading U.S. forces in confronting Iraq, was forced to take up positions, with its weapons and equipment, in Cairo's streets and alleys in a fierce attempt by President Husni Mubarak's regime to suppress the Arab people in Egypt and break their pan-Arab resolve. This resolve rejects the humiliating plunge into the colonialist quagmire that is taking shape behind the Mubarak-Fahd-al-Asad pact in its U.S.-European framework, which is heading toward a great catastrophe for the nations of the region and the entire world.

What is taking place now in Cairo is only the first indication of the potential explosions in all the Arab capitals that have pawned themselves, their will, their dignity, and the causes of their nations to the new colonialist program, based on plundering the Arab oil wealth and halting Arab progress.

Therefore, the explosion of Arab nations will necessarily be more powerful, deeper, and more comprehensive than the explosion of the Gulf war itself, should its colonialist planners see fit that war break out. In that event, not one Arab regime will be safe, even though it be supported by all the arsenals of the United States and its allies.

Since we reject the catastrophe and do no wish it for any side, before time runs out we hope that those Arab regimes, from Cairo to Damascus and Riyadh, will understand the meaning of their peoples' messages these days and join the efforts toward a political and peaceful settlement of the crisis, despite the big U.S. drum that continues to beat the sounds of war in the region.

Muslim Council Says 8 Oct Events Preplanned

TA3010203290 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Excerpts] The Supreme Muslim Council in Jerusalem reached the conclusion that the Border Police and the police preplanned the Temple Mount events after receiving permission from the government.

The council's report, which was presented to journalists today in East Jerusalem, said that border policemen shot to kill on the Temple Mount without any justification. Gil Sedan reports:

[Begin Sedan recording] Senior representatives of the Palestinian leadership came to the East Jerusalem news conference reinforced by Knesset Members 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah and Muhammad Mi'ari. U.S. Consul in Jerusalem Philip Wilcox also saw fit to participate in the event and hear about the report. The findings of the Supreme Muslim Council completely contradict the Zamir report. [passage omitted]

To sum up, there was not a single word about the police promising the Waqf that the Temple Mount Faithful would not ascend the mount, and the fact that the stone throwing preceded the shooting was completely ignored. The report concluded with a statement that the Muslims will continue to defend the mosques, whatever the price. [end recording]

The reaction of the Prime Minister's Office to the Supreme Muslim Council's report: It is a superficial, one-sided, and contentious report that does not reflect what really happened. Several members of the Supreme Muslim Council themselves participated in the Temple Mount events and that shows the report's credibility.

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Intifadah, Gulf

PM2910114690 Paris LE MONDE in French 28-29 Oct 90 p 3

[Interview with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi—date and place not given]

[Text] [Frachon] The UN Security Council—including the United States—has just condemned Israel for its refusal to receive a delegation to investigate the Temple Mount incident. How do you react to this constant deterioration in Israel's image abroad?

[Levi] We are asking for an objective judgment of our situation. The so-called Free World explains to us that the priority is to deal with Saddam Husayn, to make every effort to ensure that he does not emerge victorious from his aggression against Kuwait. Within that very Free World, however, some people want to establish a link between the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian affair. In other words, it is Israel which must pay the political price for the coalition which the Western countries have formed with some Arab countries. Israel cannot afford to do that.

[Frachon] Even if it means clashing with the United States?

[Levi] Our relations with the United States are deep-rooted, and based on friendship and common interests. From time to time, however, there are misunderstandings. But, you must not think that our alliance is called into question each time that happens. It is true that the United States is having trouble in maintaining the coalition of Arab countries opposed to Saddam Husayn. It regards that coalition as so fragile that it voted with the other countries in favor of the resolution condemning Israel (in the Security Council—LE MONDE editor's note)

We do not want to pay that price. We do not want to accept this investigation mission which would come to a Jerusalem which the United Nations regards as an "occupied territory" to give us advice on the Palestinian question. No capital in the world would agree to be treated in that way. Look at what has happened in Lebanon—the massacres, the violence, the murder of Dany Sham'un—and the same Security Council does not think it necessary to order any intervention in Lebanon....

[Frachon] The intifadah on the West Bank and in Gaza will shortly be three years old. This month of October started with the Temple Mount tragedy—22 Palestinians killed—followed by the murder of three Israelis in Jerusalem, the closure of the territories and so forth. Do you share the view expressed by the Israeli press which is virtually unanimous in noting that the status quo becomes more intolerable each day?

[Levi] Is Israel responsible for the status quo—if there is, as you say, a status quo? Has Israel not formulated a "peace initiative"—the plan for elections in the territories and peace negotiations with the Arab countries which was adopted in spring 1989?

The status quo is not the issue, but whether or not Israel should bow to terrorism (by the PLO—LE MONDE editor's note). I would like to add that this is not the first time that we have faced critical situations. Imagine what the situation was like 30, 20, or 10 years ago, in the days of the feda'in, the big waves of terrorism, or the rocket fire directed against our villages in the north.

Despite all the current upheavals between East and West, all the Arab countries—aside from Egypt—are maintaining a state of war with Israel and the PLO is maintaining the practice of terrorism. So yes, of course, many people may be weary of the current situation and many others want to give us advice.

[Frachon] You yourself are establishing the famous "link" by saying that the Israeli "peace initiative" could not be put on the table again before the end of the Gulf crisis.

[Levi] Our initiative is still there. We have not frozen it. Everything depends on a possible Palestinian partner, everything depends on the people living in the territories of Judea, Samaria (the West Bank), and Gaza. This initiative must be taken as a whole: At the same time as dialogue with the Palestinians, it makes provision for an end to the state of war with the Arab countries which still refuse to meet us for peace negotiations at a time when the walls between East and West in Europe are collapsing. And it is Israel which you accuse of extremism....

[Frachon] If you want nothing to do with the PLO, who do you regard as acceptable Palestinian partners?

[Levi] People who do not support terrorism, who are residents of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, and who would accept the Israeli peace initiative as it stands.

[Frachon] Do you know of any possible partners on those conditions?

[Levi] I am not going to search for them with a torch. If they are interested, it is for them to come forward. You cannot ask us to "create" a Palestinian partner.

[Frachon] Surely you could wait a long time?

[Levi] I am sure that we will one day have such Palestinian interlocutors because things cannot go on like this. There will be people who will agree to define and negotiate their future with us. When? I am ready. If the "others" are not, if they think they have time, that is not our fault. If we have to wait the whole span of our children's generation, then that is what we will do..... Meanwhile, there will be no capitulation by us. We will not bow to terrosim and nobody will dictate our behavior.

[Frachon] But Secretary of State James Baker found a formula by which you could negotiate with Palestinian nationalists who would be "close" to the PLO, but resident in the territories. By rejecting that, you ran the risk of eliminating a moderate leadership and being faced only with the Islamic fundamentalists.

[Levi] It is impossible to have the PLO as a partner—a PLO whose charter still makes provision for Israel's destruction. Mr. Baker has now reached the same conclusions as us.

[Frachon] Let us return to the Gulf crisis. What would you regard as the ideal scenario, the most desirable outcome?

[Levi] If I give you my viewpoint, it would be rather like telling others to fight for us. I do not want to be accused of that, or of trying to exploit the situation. In all events, it is not our decision. It is the Free World's interests which dictate the Western reaction.

But you could say that we are now rather shocked to see that governments are proposing "arrangements" to allow Saddam Husayn to extricate himself by organizing "elections" and "a democratic process" in Kuwait, while knowing perfectly well that a large part of the emirate's population has fled, that another large part has been expelled, and that the country's demographic balance has been disrupted. What is the purpose of those games? Such proposals suprise us because Saddam Husayn will threaten again in the near future. Will there be another coalition to oppose him if he threatens Israel? We have no confidence. I am afraid that the terrible Iraqi arsenal will be left intact and that the Iraqi danger will thus be perpetuated.

[Frachon] Do you think there is a move toward such a compromise solution?

[Levi] I cannot be sure. I hear these fine statements about a "peaceful solution...."

Reduction of Labor From Territories Proposed

TA3110114590 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Oct 90 p 10

[Report by Knesset affairs correspondent Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpt] The tens of thousands of Palestinians from the territories working in Israel not only confounded Zionism, but also harmed the country's social, economic and security interests, Defense Minister Moshe Arens said yesterday.

Arens told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that Likud-led coalitions had apparently taken over a policy created by Labor-led ones.

"Economic calculations were decisive in adopting that policy. Entire enterprises were built on labor from the territories," he said. "But now, if there is awareness that this state of affairs is unhealthy, there should also be the will to alter it.

"Our national economy has to be modified, to fit in with a different policy, in such a way as to take the future livelihood of the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza into account," he said. "A program has to be devised whereby the role of labor from the territories within the Israeli economy will be reduced in gradual stages."

Arens said closing off the territories permanently was out of the question because of the frustration and bitterness it would create.

He said it was not realistic to expect elections there in the immediate future. "I have never said the intifada was fading away, and I believe that the current wave of trouble has not yet passed. We have to make ready for a difficult period, in which civilians inside and outside Israel will be targets for attack." [passage omitted]

[Writing on page 10 of Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 31 October, Amnon Levi reports: "The Defense Ministry will receive a supplementary budget of 400 millions shekels, Defense Minister Moshe Arens told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday. He said that this supplement does not include the extra sum which the ministry will receive for gas masks.

["So far, 2.9 million gas masks have been distributed to Jews and Arabs. 'The distribution was not made as a result of information regarding an impending chemical attack; the likelihood of that is very low. Iraq's ability to carry out such an attack is limited and, furthermore, I doubt that it intends to do so. Since the likelihood is not nil, the decision to distribute gas masks was made,' he said."]

Al-Husayni Receives Three-Month Travel Ban

TA2910122190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni has received an order forbidding him from leaving the country for the next three months. Our correspondent Gil Litman notes that the order speaks of possible harm to state security.

New Merkava Tanks Introduced Into Usage

TA3110110890 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Oct 90 p 2

[Report by Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] Qatzrin—The first Merkava Mark III tanks were delivered to a tank unit on the Golan Heights yesterday. OC [Officer Commanding] Northern Command Maj. Gen. Yosi Peled said they will be the main weapons in Israel's future land battles.

"If our enemies could analyze this tank's ability to determine the outcome of a battle, maybe our deterrence would increase as well," he said at the delivery ceremony.

Peled and other generals painted the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] tactical insignia on the tanks, and the crews then demonstrated some of the Merkava's capabilities. Officers applauded when they scored direct hits on distant targets and showed the tank's maneuverability and speed. The Merkava's cannon remained steady as the tanks bounced over rough terrain. Three gears for reversing speedily are available, the officers were told.

The Merkava's exact specifications are secret, but officers said the innovations go far beyond modest improvements on earlier models. "The new capabilities are rare and significant," a senior tank corps officer said.

The 120mm cannon is more accurate and has a greater range than the guns of enemy tanks, and its advanced shells are expected to penetrate all types of armor possessed by the enemy.

Five IDF Soldiers Jailed for Abusing Arab

TA2810134690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] The Central Command military court handed down two-week to two-month prison terms to five soldiers who were convicted of abusing a resident of the territories. The central defendant, Sergeant Menahem Tzemah, was given five months, three of which are suspended. The main charge was that some three months ago the soldiers abused a resident of the village of Baytin and even staged his execution. In their sentence, the judges stated that the soldiers had beaten the man in absolute contravention of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] orders, while exceeding their authority as commanders and soldiers.

King Husayn Leaves on Visit to Oman 31 Oct

JN3110121890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn left Amman for the Sultanate of Oman at noon today on a working visit during which he will hold talks with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman on the Gulf crisis and the current Arab situation.

He was seen off by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, His Royal Highness Prince Faysal Ibn-Husayn, the prime minister, the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the political adviser to his majesty the king, ministers, the king's personal secretary, the chief of staff, and the director of public security.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan took the constitutional oath in the presence of his majesty the king and the ministers as regent during the king's absence from the homeland.

The chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the chief chamberlain, and the deputy prime minister and foreign minister accompanied his majesty the king.

U.S. Assured Iraqis Not Trained on Hawk Missile

JN3010074490 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 25 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the U.S. Government received official Jordanian assurances on the highest level that Jordanian missile experts have not and will not extend any assistance to train Iraqi forces how to operate U.S. anti-aircraft Hawk missiles that Iraq seized from Kuwait. A U.S. Defense Department official has said that the U.S. missile experts and the company manufacturing these missiles are now working on counter measures that would paralyze the effectiveness of these missiles if Iraq were to use them against U.S. Forces in the Gulf. The U.S. officials fear that Iraq might force the Kuwaiti missile experts who were trained in the United States to train the Iraqis in their use. They stressed that the Iraqi forces lack the capability and expertise to operate the Hawk missiles. Iraq captured 150 Hawk missiles and five launching batteries following its invasion of Kuwait.

Al-Qasim Comments on Soviet-French Summit

JN3010170090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1605 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Replying to a question from the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY on the outcome of the Soviet-French summit which concluded its work in Paris yesterday and on Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's call for an Arab conference to resolve the Gulf crisis, Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has reiterated Jordan's position on the crisis since the outset which was the focus of contacts, discussions, and His Majety King Husayn's continuous efforts to resolve the crisis within the Arab household.

In his statement, al-Qasim said that it is natural for Jordan to welcome any constructive efforts for a political settlement of the Gulf crisis. He said that Jordan, since the outset of the crisis, has called for giving Arab efforts the necessary time and support to reach a settlement that safeguards Arab interests and removes the dangers of an intervention and confrontation from the region.

Al-Qasim added that based on this, we welcome the statements of two leaders whose countries are permanent UN Security Council members, which means that these countries along with the PRC see the need for allowing the Arab nation the opportunity to play a major role in tackling the crisis along with the required international support in a manner that will ensure the cherished solution.

Al-Qasim pointed out that the spirit of the statements made by the two sides shows a surge in the international response to what His Majesty King Husayn has eagerly worked for since the beginning of the crisis. It also clearly shows the wisdom and farsightedness of the Jordanian position.

Minutes Signed by Jordanian-Soviet Committee

JN3110092490 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] At the end of the second five-day session of the joint Jordanian-Soviet committee, the two sides signed the minutes of the committee meetings at the Ministry of Industry and Trade today. Dr. Ibrahim Badran, secretary general of the Ministry of Industry Trade and head of the Jordanian side in the committee, made the following statement to our radio on the major points of the minutes:

[Begin Badran recording] A number of decisions and recommendations were made to achieve the goals of the agreement between the two countries. Two major areas were discussed. The first pertains to economic and technical cooperation, and the second deals with trade cooperation and ways to expand trade between the two countries. In addition to economic and technical cooperation, the two sides agreed to increase cooperation in the field of energy in order to bring electricity to the countryside. The Soviet Union has previously contributed to electrifying the countryside. So, it has experience in these areas in Jordan. The two sides agreed to promote these areas. They also discussed the possibility of benefiting from the Soviet expertise in oil shale areas. Regarding joint projects, they discussed the possibility of establishing joint projects, especially those pertaining to phosphate, and producing the phosphoric acid as a joint project between the two countries.

In agriculture, they agreed to continue cooperation in studying desertification, dealing with agriculture in dry areas, and benefiting from Soviet expertise in raising cattle and using biological means to fight diseases and insects. The Soviet side also expressed readiness to contribute to establishing the al-Wahdah Dam and to cooperate in the area of protected agriculture and green houses. They also discussed training Jordanian cadres in various industrial fields. These are the major points of the minutes signed this morning. [end recording]

USSR Envoy on Efforts for Peace in Gulf

JN3010144590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Telephone interview with Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Yuriy Gryadunov by Ibrahim Shahzadah in Amman; in Arabic; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Shahzadah] Your Excellency Soviet Ambassador in Amman: At his news conference in Paris yesterday, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said that the military option to deal with the Gulf crisis is unacceptable. At the same time, he proposed a solution to the crisis within the Arab framework. Do you believe that the Soviet Union will hold talks and contacts with the permanent member states of the Security Council to promote this trend?

[Gryadunov] You know that the Soviet Union has made great efforts in recent months to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. I believe that the recent meeting between President Gorbachev and President Mitterrand will effectively contribute to these efforts. I believe that the Soviet Union and the Soviet leadership will continue their endeavors to achieve this goal. The Paris meeting as well as the Soviet and the French positions demonstrated during that meeting will help achieve a solution to the Gulf crisis that will be acceptable to all parties concerned. I can say that there will be contacts with all parties, in the UN Security Council, and with other countries, especially with the Arab countries.

[Shahzadah] Your Excellency the Ambassador, how do you assess Soviet envoy Primakov's tour of the region?

[Gryadunov] I believe that this tour has been very helpful in promoting understanding of events in the region and of the various countries' positions, especially those of the Arab countries. I believe that President Gorbachev's statements in Paris on the Gulf crisis take into account the results of the tour of the Soviet president's envoy to the region.

[Shahzadah] Thank you Mr. Ambassador.

[Gryadunov] You are welcome.

New Libyan Envoy Arrives, Praises Relations

JN2910173890 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] The new Libyan Ambassador accredited to the Royal Court, Muhammad 'Ali Ba'wash, arrived in Amman today. He was received at the airport by the assistant director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry. In a statement to Jordan Television, the Libyan ambassador paid tribute to relations between Jordan and Libya:

[Begin Ba'wash recording, in Arabic] I think that in the past foreigners helped to sour our relations, and there was mutual misunderstanding between us. Now things are clear and back to normal. We have come to the realization that Arabs are one people who will have to sort out their differences in the end, which actually are not real, but mundane. We are all in agreement on fundamental issues; namely, to unite the Arab people, liberate their land, and insulate this chaste soil from the defilement of Zionism and imperialism. [end recording]

Al-Qasim Receives Libyan

JN3010204890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received at his office today Libyan Ambassador Muhammad 'Ali Ba'wash, who submitted a copy of his credentials as ambassador to Jordan.

Industrial Sector Urges 'Embargo' Exemption

JN3110103990 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Oct 90 pp 18, 14

[By the economic editor]

[Text] The Amman Chamber of Industry has urged the responsible Jordanian officials to ask the UN Security Council and the United Nations to exclude Jordanian commodities from the embargo imposed on Iraq, especially the commodities for which export contracts had been concluded with Iraq before the economic embargo.

An industry source at the chamber told AL-DUSTUR that the industrial sector in Jordan has been deeply harmed by the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution stipulating the embargo on Iraq.

The source explained that some Jordanian factories are facing difficulties while other factories have halted operations as a result of their inability to export their commodities on the one hand, and their inability to obtain the raw materials required for industry on the other. This has been caused by obstacles in the maritime transportation sector as a result of inspections carried out by Western fleets on maritime routes, including the Gulf of al-'Aqabah.

The source said that most Jordanian industrial companies are facing a critical impasse as a result of the embargo on Iraq. He explained that in the food industries sector, for instance, four establishments are facing major problems as they signed contracts with Iraqi establishments to export about 95 million eggs, worth $22 million during the 12 months between April 1990 and May 1991. These establishments made preparations to fulfill these contracts and purchased equipment and raised hens worth $10 million. They were then surprised by the decision to ban their exports as part of Jordan's commitment to the UN Security Council resolution.

The source added that this ban will result in damaging a large quantity of eggs and, consequently, in the impossibility of fulfilling the contract with the Iraqi establishments by the Jordanian establishments.

The source said that although the economic embargo resolution is directly aimed against Iraq, it is significantly and effectively harming the industrial sector in Jordan.

Transport Official Interviewed

JN3010184390 Amman Domestic Service in English 1220 GMT 30 Oct 90

[From the "Local News Roundup" feature by Cathy Qaqish]

[Text] The land transport sector in Jordan accounts for 12 percent of the kingdom's gross domestic product. But then the Gulf crisis and in particular Jordan's adherence to UN sanctions against Iraq have dealt a heavy blow to this sector. Most of the 12,000 Jordanian trucks which before the crisis used to follow regional routes are now standing idle. The trucking business is now losing 60 million Jordanian dinars a month, and is expected to reach to a total loss of 300 million JD by the end of this year. To learn more about the situation of land transport in Jordan, I spoke to Dr. Muhammad al-Samadi, the secretary general of the Ministry of Transport.

[Begin recording] [Al-Samadi] Let me first set the fact that the transport sector is one of the leading sectors in the Jordanian economy. It represents a share of about 12 percent in our GDP. Also, let me say that when we talk about this sector, one should remember that it includes the different subsectors, namely land, air and sea transport. The impact of the Gulf crisis since the beginning of August on this sector was, and I think, still is of highest magnitude. In the area of land transport, for example, Jordan has, as you know, about 12,000 trucks of different kinds which were directed to originally carry international trade, meaning that they differ from those utilized for local transportation purposes. This volume of trucks was hit the hardest, and the impact unfortunately filtered down as a result of the characteristics of this subsector. Let me mention two areas: One, that the size of this land transport subsector, the fleet in this subsector in comparison with others is a big one. Secondly, the smallness of the property units. I mean there are so many thousands of individuals, each one or two of them have one truck. And thirdly, the large services sector which was built over the years, over the last 10 years to be specific, to serve this fleet.

Therefore, the impact filtered down to the individual level and it hit a wide sector of our population who are in this subsector.

[Qaqish] And of course not only the people who work in this sector, but their families as well.

[Al-Samadi] Certainly, I am talking here about the direct impact of those who are working in this sector, but the indirect impact is huge, indeed.

[Qaqish] Yes, of course. You said that the transport sector actually forms 12 percent of Jordan's GDP?

[Al-Samadi] That's true.

[Qaqish] So, due to the crisis, how much is this sector losing?

[Al-Samadi] Well, the initial estimate which we have so far, up to the end of October, the net losses is estimated at about 60 million dinars a month. So, we are talking about 300 million dinars over the five months to the end of this year.

[Qaqish] It is quite a large figure?

[Al-Samadi] I think it explains a large part of which we are talking about.

[Qaqish] Yes, of course. What's the role of the Ministry of Transport in trying to alleviate the problem? Can it do much, and is it doing anything?

[Al-Samadi] Well, as you know, within the current circumstances the maneuverability of the government and the ministry is to an extent limited. But, yes the ministry has taken several steps to alleviate the pressure on the truckers and on this subsector. For example, on the local scene, the government in close cooperation and coordination with all concerned in the field took the policy of distributing the available transport potential to all individuals and to all people who are working in this field, even in such cases in which there were exclusive rights, exclusive contracts to certain transport companies. They willingly forgo their rights to help individual truckers. And I am referring here to the area of phosphate transport to al-'Aqaba, of cement and [word indistinct] and the other big companies.

[Qaqish] And this basically is what could be done for the time being?

[Al-Samadi] Well, we didn't leave it at that, indeed. The government also took the initiative to contact other countries in the region to alleviate some border pressures which have been put, in certain times, on our truckers. We in this ministry are expecting a team from Turkey in the coming few days to talk about the agreements between Jordan and Turkey, and to sign a protocol which will, I hope, have a positive impact on our Jordanian truckers moving from Jordan through Turkey to Europe. That's one aspect. The other, also we are trying to explore the potentialities in some other markets, whereby if we find positive (?signs) we would ask our people to go and enter such markets.

[Qaqish] Well, we do hope that something will come out of this. Basically, it seems that this is the only alternative?

[Al-Samadi] Yes, so we are sparing no effort to look at all the potentialities both inside and outside. [end recording]

Muslim Brotherhood, Others Form Coalition

JN3110091090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Oct 90 p 1

[By Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—The formation of a new parliamentary coalition which groups Muslim Brotherhood members with independent Islamists, liberals and pan-Arabists could be the latest step taken in assuring an influential official role for Islamists in the Lower House of Parliament, government insiders said Tuesday.

Some parliament observers told the Jordan Times that the main intention of the grouping at this stage is to ensure the election of an Islamist candidate, most certainly Muslim Brotherhood Deputy 'Abd- al-Latif 'Arabiyat, as speaker of the House in return for certain concessions.

The main contenders to the speakership at this stage are the incumbent, Sulayman 'Arar, and 'Arabiyat, spokesman of the Muslim Brotherhood. But other potential candidates are still in the running.

The new "Arab Islamic Coalition" could easily ensure the speakership for the coalition's candidate since it has 42 members in the 80-member House to secure the needed majority. "But this of course depends on the coalition holding together," an observer noted.

The new coalition includes the 22 Muslim Brotherhood deputies and the eight-member independent Islamic Bloc, which was formed last December.

While the Islamic Bloc has already announced that one of its members, al-Karak Deputy 'Atif al-Butush, would be running for the speakership, observers believe that the different blocs in the coalition would come to an agreement whereby all would be satisfied with their demands.

The coalition includes some erst-while members of the mainly leftist Democratic Bloc such as Salim al-Zu'bi and Husayn Mujalli. The newly formed seven-member Liberal Bloc, which broke away from the 24-member National Bloc, a conglomeration of traditionalist and whould-be liberal parliamentarians has also joined forces with the coalition, according to a prominent member of the bloc 'Ajlun Deputy 'Isa al-Rimuni.

While senior government officials have denied that negotiations are under way to give Muslim Brotherhood members certain cabinet posts in a reshuffle, the observers see the latest coalition as a pressure group.

"Such a grouping is exactly what many deputies need right now," said a self-styled liberal member of parliament. "It is the ideal way to go about parliamentary politics. The main aim of any deputy is to achieve as much as possible of his election programme. If he can do that only by forging 'strange' political alliances then that's what he has to do," said the parliamentarian.

The predominantly leftist eight-member Democratic Bloc has not been officially invited to join the coalition, but its members are studying the possibility of coallaborating with the new group.

"We and the political forces we represent, namely those members of the Jordanian Arab Nationalist, Democratic Alliance (JANDA), have left the door open for cooperation with different political trends in the country. If we can agree on a basic programme with the coalition we would consider joining it," said one member of the Democratic Bloc.

During the last election for speakership of the House the nominse of the Muslim Brotherhood and Islamic deputies was independent Islamist Yusuf Mubayyidin who was defeated by 'Arar, a liberal, with support from a short-lived coalition of 40 deputies joined by the Democratic Bloc. Mubayyidin went on to become justice minister in Mr. Mudar Badran's government.

Spokesman for the budding 42-member coalition have stressed that the grouping intends to gather the largest number of deputies posible in order to execute a certain "programme" through the House with a possible two-thirds majority.

"The intention of the grouping is not just to get a certain deputy elected as speaker of the House," one of the spokesmen contended.

Independent observers have stressed, however, that a cabinet reshuffle could ultimately rest on who wins the race for the House speakership after parliament reconvenes Nov. 18.

Soviet Statements Seen as 'Responsible' Stand

JN3110104990 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Oct 90 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Responsible Soviet Position"]

[Text] Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's statements in Paris yesterday represent the hallmark of a new stage in the Gulf crisis, even an important turning point that might lead all those involved in the crisis to reconsider their positions and policies. This will tip the balance in favor of the peaceful solutions, not for the Gulf crisis only, but also for all crises in this region of the world.

This is probably what the Soviet president meant when he called in Paris for holding an Arab conference to resolve the crisis within its legitimate home, and when he pointed out the real linkage among all crises in the Middle East, especially since his host President Francois Mitterand had earlier noted the existence of such an objective linkage between all crises in the region.

Adding importance to President Gorbachev's statements is that they came following the Paris summit, which devoted a major part of its work to the situation in the Gulf, and that they were issued within the framework of intense diplomatic activity that reached its peak with the arrival of Soviet envoy Yevgeniy Primakov in Baghdad and Riyadh. Hence, it is obvious that the Soviet Union is in a position to play an unparalleled role to reach a final settlement of the situation in the region.

It is striking that Gorbachev, while calling for an Arab conference to resolve the crisis, noted that there are some Arab states who are really capable of playing an important role in finding a suitable way out for all concerned parties and that Saudi Arabia itself can, from the Soviet viewpoint, carry out an indigenous initiative that will eventually lead to the Arab solution, which Jordan had earlier called for and insisted on.

In view of this, we hope that these responsible Soviet words will be taken into consideration by all those involved in the crisis, and that this position announced in Paris will lead this party or the other rationally and calmly to reconsider all positions and policies on the developments and possibilities of the situation. Such a desirable reappraisal can bring the crisis back to square one, and consequently remove it from the hands of the war advocates in London, Tel Aviv, and Washington.

Egypt's Role in Gulf Security System Queried

JN3110130690 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 31 Oct 90 p 18

["Spotlight" column by Tahir al-'Adwan: "Egyptian Illusions About Gulf Security"]

[Text] During his recent tour of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, the Egyptian president spoke about a security alliance or a security system for the Gulf. In his latest statement on the subject, Mubarak said: "Egypt is ready to send more forces and military hardware to Saudi Arabia." He added: "There is a conviction even in the United States that U.S. presence alone will not solve the problem and that Gulf security must become Arab security and that they (the Americans) are helping us only with weapons and ammunition."

If the U.S. objectives of political, military, and economic domination of the Gulf region are clear, what are the national and pan-Arab interests that the Egyptian regime could reap from its enthusiastic support for the campaign to restore U.S. domination over Kuwait and other Arab states?

Egyptian officials are purposely avoiding any mention of the financial gains they have made from their hostile stand against Iraq, such as the cancellation of their debts and the possibility of receiving more cash aid, and have turned to talking about an Egyptian role in the security of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf; a role based on the illusion that Egyptian forces would take the leading role in this security alliance while the Americans would only serve as suppliers of weapons and ammunition. This is what President Mubarak actually said in his statement. Now, would such a role have any chance? In other words, would the United States accept the role of weapons supplier only? Moreover, would Saudi Arabia and its Gulf neighbors agree to entrust their security to the Egyptian forces or any other Arab forces?

The answer is, this is a sheer illusion. The Americans will not hand over the security of the Gulf to President Mubarak or anyone else. Saudi Arabia and its neighbors will not do so either. This is because, in the Middle East, the Americans only trust Israel and the Gulf states only trust the American, Pakistani, or Bangladesh armies. They will never place their security in the hands of any Arab force. In fact, for the past several decades the Gulf states have not trusted even the labor market to Arab manpower, whether Egyptian or non-Egyptian, for long-term security reasons that are known to every expert on Gulf affairs. Therefore, we were not surprised to see that the number of Southeast Asian workers in Kuwait, for instance, was several times the number of workers from Arab countries.

Filipinos, Indians, and other Asian foreigners in the Gulf states enjoy more privileges than any Egyptian worker, or even an Iraqi from Basra, which is only a stone's throw from Kuwait. What applies to workers also applies to armies. This has been the real situation in the Gulf since the fifties.

Finally, if Gulf security is in danger, then it is in danger from the Americans. This must be Egypt's national and pan-Arab view. If Cairo believes that its national interests and the security of the Gulf are served by helping the United States implement its plans against Iraq, then this is a great a disaster and a dangerous course that could turn Arab states into banana republics in which imperialist monopolies could do as they pleased. This has been demonstrated by the very bloody chapters in the recent history of U.S. practices in Chile, Bolivia, Panama, and other Latin American countries.

Hizballah Announces Agreement With Amal

NC3010220890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] The Hizballah information office announced this evening that, as a result of the meetings held in the office of Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an [chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon], between the delegations of the Amal Movement and Hizballah in the presence of the Iranian ambassador to Damascus, Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, a meeting took place between representatives of the two parties at the headquarters of Syrian Observers Forces in Beirut. During the meeting, both parties agreed to the following:

1. A total and comprehensive cease-fire between the two parties on all levels.

2. Holding a meeting tomorrow between social representatives to reach an agreement on resolving the humanitarian issues of repairing water pipes; providing supplies and medicines to Iqlim al-Tuffah; and evacuating the wounded from the area.

3. Exchanging all detainees and prisoners of war in preparation for a final, comprehensive solution under the aegis of Iran and Syria.

Al-Tufayli Said Optimistic on Beirut Plan

NC3110085290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli has expressed his optimism that the conflict between the Amal Movement and Hizballah will be resolved soon. He said that the matters at Iqlim al-Tuffah will be settled, pending the availability of the Lebanese Army's capabilities, which could enable it to deploy in an area bigger than that of the Iqlim. He added that the Lebanese Army's decision is no longer pro-Israel but a pro-Syrian decision that advocates resistance and rejects Israel, and there is no longer anything suspicious about the Army's role.

Regarding the internal situation, Shaykh al-Tufayli declared that there is serious work to make the Greater Beirut Plan successful. He added that the parties which stand to lose from this plan will not be able to block it because of this seriousness. He added: We support the Greater Beirut Plan and advocate a single security tool rather than the security of the militias. It is in our interest to have stability in the country, because we stand to lose from the deteriorating security situation and the violent domestic conflicts. He stressed that in any case, Hizballah will take its weapons out of Beirut because carrying weapons within residential areas in the cities and villages is against the party's beliefs.

Regarding the geographical area of Greater Beirut, Shaykh al-Tufayli said Hizballah has no problem over an extended geographical area. The bigger the area under the state authority, the better it will be for the people, he added.

In response to a question on the possiblity of Hizballah's representation in any new government or in the parliamentary appointments, Shaykh al-Tufayli said: The matter requires observation and follow-up. Any talk about joining the state or the government is premature and will not be accurate at the moment. He stressed that Hizballah is not a stumbling block to the solution, even if it does not join the state through a ministry or a parliamentary seat and even if it stays among the opposition.

While expressing his belief that the al-Ta'if accord is not the effective remedy for the problems of the Lebanese, he declared that we have no interest in undermining it. He added: Unlike some parties, we do not consider the fall of al-Ta'if as a victory for us.

Fatah Official Welcomes Amal-Hizballah Accord

NC3110123490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] Zayd Wahbi, political official of the Fatah Movement in Lebanon, has welcomed the recent cease-fire agreement between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah. He said that the Palestinian role in Iqlim al-Tuffah will end once this agreement is implemented. He stressed that the Fatah Movement will not be an obstacle to the Lebanese Army's entry into the region and that everything will be solved by dialogue.

Wahbi stressed that the Palestinian military presence in the South is for the sake of confronting the Israeli enemy. He called for a dialogue between what he termed the Lebanese and Palestinian legitimacies for reopening the PLO offices in Beirut, for dealing with the PLO as a member of the Arab League, and for safeguarding the security of the camps. He said that all these are Palestinian principles which do not conflict with Lebanon's Arab character, independence, and sovereignty. He declared that the PLO supports the removal of all military manifestations inside towns.

Regarding the Greater Beirut plan, Wahbi expressed satisfaction with the plan but noted that there is real apprehension that the Lebanese Government will not be given a chance to play its full role in imposing its authority on all Lebanese territory. He referred to the presence of the Lahd [South Lebanese Army] forces, which no one has mentioned. He called on the Lebanese Army to play its national role in liberating the occupied security zone.

Ministers Meet Ja'ja'; Mission 'Successful'

NC3110073890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] The two-man ministerial committee yesterday intensified its meetings with the key figures concerned with the implementation of the Greater Beirut Plan. For that purpose, the committee members held a lengthy meeting with Lebanese Forces [LF] Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' last night that lasted for approximately five hours.

At the end of the meeting, Minister Muhsin Dallul announced the LF's full response to the legitimate government's plan for greater Beirut. He added: This is a very important matter for the peace process, and we are proud that our mission with Dr. Ja'ja' and the LF was successful. They have given us full support that will enable us to ensure that the peace march will be secure. He pointed out that the issue of [a new] government is on the burner.

For his part, Defense Minister Albert Mansur stressed that security will be achieved in the two al-Matn areas to ensure freedom of action in a safe and peaceful atmosphere for everybody, as it should be under the legitimacy. He added: Soon you will see on the ground the positive results of the Cabinet decisions and the means for their implementation.

Asked if the measures will begin with the Greater Beirut Plan before extending the state's authority in full over the two al-Matn areas, Mansur said: Everything will be done simultaneously.

After the meeting, Dr. Ja'ja' pointed out that the area of greater Beirut had been defined in principle, keeping all factors into consideration. It will run from Nahr al-Kalb in the North to al-Damur in the South, and will perhaps go as deep as the al-Biqa' valley. He added that the date of implementation is up to the Lebanese legitimacy to decide.

While stressing that there are no preconditions, he said that the issue of the two al-Matn areas is a pressing matter for the legitimacy itself. He called on everybody to show cooperation to overcome all the obstacles facing the national accord march.

Dallul Meets With PSP Leadership, Comments

NC3010122590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Statements by Agriculture Minister Muhsin Dallul and Lieutenant Colonel Shariff Fayyad, secretary general of the Progressive Socialist Party, PSP, to unidentified reporters on 30 October; place not given—recorded]

[Text] A delegation representing the leadership of the Progressive Socialist Party, including deputy PSP leader Fu'ad Salman, Secretary General Lieutenant Colonel Sharif Fayyad, Political Bureau member Akaram Shuhayyib, and Popular Liberation Army Commander Lieutenant Colonel Raja Harb, met today with ministerial committee member Minister Muhsin Dallul. Marwan Hamadah attended the meeting. Following the meeting, Minister Dallul made the following statement:

[Begin recording] [Dallul] The meeting was very positive. We reviewed the political situation in general. We placed special emphasis on the Greater Beirut Plan. We discussed all the issues pertaining to greater Beirut. We sensed the PSP leadership's full responsiveness. We thank the PSP leadership and members for this responsiveness which enables the Lebanese people to embark upon the long-awaited phase of peace and security. I thank them. Our joint efforts will help establish peace for the people. I thank them and thank you. [Words indistinct] The PSP's guarantees lie in its power, popularity, and its capabilities.

[Reporter] In his statements, Mr. Junblatt demanded certain guarantees. He said he would hand over weapons to the Syrian Arab Army.

[Dallul] We discussed greater Beirut, the political conditions, and many other issues. I greatly appreciate the PSP's stand on the plans we had proposed.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, German television would like to know a few things.

[Dallul] Go ahead.

[Reporter] What about the Greater Beirut Plan and dissolving the militias?

[Dallul] At present, we are discussing greater Beirut. The issue of the militias will be raised later. We will meet with a number of other organizations today and tomorrow. So far, all the organizations we met with have agreed to greater Beirut and are willing to give every assistance. This shows that the Lebanese people believe in peace and are prepared to cooperate with the legitimate government to begin a new stage of security, stability, and reconstruction.

[Reporter] Have all the parties you met with agreed?

[Dallul] Until today and up to this hour, all the parties have agreed to the Greater Beirut Plan.

[Reporter] Are there definite borders to greater Beirut?

[Dallul] No. The cabinet, in cooperation with some of the existing forces, will define the geographical borders according to higher interests. [end recording]

Following Minister Dallul's statement, PSP Secretary General Lt. Col. Sharif Fayyad voiced the party's stand.

[Begin recording] [Fayyad] We discussed with His Excellency Minister Muhsin Dallul the government plan to implement the Greater Beirut Plan. The party's stand in this connection is positive and well-known. The party had earlier ended its military presence in Beirut, even before the Greater Beirut Plan was announced. We can say that our stand is not only positive, but also supportive to the government plan to establish greater Beirut.

[Reporter] What are the geographical borders of that plan?

[Fayyad] We believe that talking too much about the political borders and other details is bound to spoil the implementation of this plan. Therefore, we will only announce our approval of the implementation of greater Beirut, provided that remaining details be discussed in due time.

[Reporter] Did you make certain remarks during the meeting?

[Fayyad] We made no remarks in the true sense of the word. I do not know what you mean by remarks. I heard some brothers, however, asking His Excellency Minister Dallul about the guarantees demanded by the PSP. We believe that the Syrian Army in itself is a guarantee. The guarantees will be present wherever the Syrian Arab Army is deployed. We believe that Minister Dallul also represents a guarantee, because he is in charge of this issue.

[Reporter] If the Syrian Army does not enter al-Ashrafiyah as you had required, what will your stand be ?

[Fayyad] Let us wait. Why do we have to rush things? Let us wait and see if the Syrian Army will or will not enter. Greater Beirut will represent one security zone. It is up to the military command to distribute its units as it deems fit. [end recording]

Minister Sa'adah Comments on Talks in Damascus

NC3010201990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi held a meeting in the temporary presidential office this afternoon. It was attended by Ministers George Sa'adah, Albert Mansur, and Muhsin Dallul, as well as Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi and his aide Muhammad al-Azrawal. After returning from Damascus, Minister Sa'adah visited Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss and Speaker Husayn al-Husayni.

Following his meeting with Speaker al-Husayni, Sa'adah made the following statement on his talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus:

[Begin recording] [Sa'adah] We discussed topical issues, particularly the ended rebellion in East Beirut, the return of the legitimate government to these areas, and the situation there. We also discussed an expanded national accord government because certain people are wrong when they say that a national accord government will be established. The current government is a national accord government, and what will be formed will be an expanded national accord government. We also touched on ways of implementing all articles of the al-Ta'if accord.

[Reporter] Certain parties say that the delay in extending the government authority and in ending the excesses in the two al-Matn regions and in B'abda will have a negative effect on the Greater Beirut Plan. What is your opinion?

[Sa'adah] I am one of those who maintain this stand. I said at the cabinet meeting and in several statements that the current anomalous incidents in these two areas are making the people hesitate and wonder if other areas to come under government control will suffer the same fate. Thus, we must cooperate to put an end to these excesses in order to facilitate the subsequent steps.

[Reporter] Are there any Syrian promises to help end this situation?

[Sa'adah] The Syrians have nothing to do with this. This issue concerns the Lebanese Government, which passed a resolution to address this issue. The Lebanese Government should take firm action and implement the resolution it endorsed in the past week. [end recording]

Al-Hirawi Discusses Nation's Immediate Tasks

PM3110110590 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 24-30 Oct 90 pp 26, 27

[Interview with President Ilyas al-Hirawi by Muwaffaq Madani Daftardar in Beirut; date unspecified]

[Text] [Daftardar] How do you view the new phase which Lebanon has started following General 'Awn's removal from the republican palace in B'abda and the Defense Ministry in al-Yarzah after power was usurped for 26 months?

[Al-Hirawi] We are looking at the next stage with great hope, because we are working for comprehensive national reconciliation and moving toward laying the foundations for a future Lebanon in accordance with the national accord document stipulating unification of the country and the institutions, disbandment of the militias, and extension of the state's authority over all its territory.

[Daftardar] What are the Lebanese preparations for the new phase?

[Al-Hirawi] The new phase is new but delicate as well. It requires complete national awareness in order to turn over the painful page of the past and open the door wide to dialogue and open understanding and harmony among the groups which fought one another in the past and have recently arrived at the firm conviction that wars increase tragedies and resolve no problems.

[Daftardar] How do you visualize Lebanon's foreseeable future?

[Al-Hirawi] Everyone now firmly believe that wars resolve no problems. Today Lebanon is facing the big challenge, and it must move completely from a state of war to a state of peace, from a state of infighting to a state of unity.

[Daftardar] Do you believe that the Lebanese parties are ready for the peace stage?

[Al-Hirawi] I believe that political differences will remain within the framework of the purely democratic process, and arms will be collected from everyone and then handed to the Lebanese Army.

[Daftardar] What is the first step which you will take following 'Awn's removal?

[Al-Hirawi] We clearly announce that the next step is to disband the militias and allocate the responsibility for peace to the state's legitimate forces, which subsequently will rapidly assume the task of perpetuating the state of peace which we started 13 October. We are also moving toward strengthening the sisterly relationship with Syria in accordance with the clauses in the national accord document. And we must thank sister Syria, which responded to the legitimate Lebanese authorities' request and helped to extend the state's authority over a dear part of our territory. We also do not forget the constant efforts exerted by the states of the high tripartite committee to help Lebanon to stand fast and recently extricate itself from its predicament.

[Daftardar] What about returning Lebanon to its previous status and rebuilding it in accordance with the peace plan?

[Al-Hirawi] Lebanon will start the building march with the help of the brothers and friends who pledged to contribute to the international aid fund. And I am fully confident that we will not be a burden to anyone after today, but rather an effective Arab state that supports the Arabs' just causes.

Al-Huss Interviewed on Domestic Situation

PM3110113590 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 24-30 Oct 90 pp 27-29

[Interview with Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss by Bari'ah 'Alam-al-Din in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] ['Alam-al-Din] How do you see the next stage?

[Al-Huss] With the start of a new phase, a new government is expected to be formed. That government is expected to complete the al-Ta'if march. Several days have elapsed since this period started. There are other stops which include the filling of the vacancies in the Chamber of Deputies—a step which requires first that the bill on amending the election law be referred by the Council of Ministers to the Chamber of Deputies to implement the constitutional stipulation included in the reforms, which give the government the power to appoint deputies to fill the vacancies as well as the additional number stipulated in the constitutional amendment, namely that nine new seats be added in order to increase the number of deputies to 108. The government is supposed to refer the bill on amendment of the election law to the Chamber. It also should issue a decree appointing these. There is also the subject of remedying the state of economic and social deterioration and prepare for launching the construction and rebuilding process. The Council of Ministers' agenda also includes a bill aimed at forming the development and rebuilding council with a new vision. Then the study conducted by two experts, one British and one Lebanese, with financial help from the Arab fund for economic development should be implemented. The development and rebuilding council is supposed to be formed in the next stage to draw up a rebuilding and development plan to be presented to the Council of Ministers and then the Chamber of Deputies. That would mark the launch of the long-awaited rebuilding and construction process.

['Alam-al-Din] What truth is there in the reports that you wish to step down as prime minister in the next government?

[Al-Huss] I believe that the country needs to look forward to a new phase. And when that new government is formed the conditions and requirements for that must be made available. I have performed my role and duty in power over many years during which the country has experienced the most difficult conditions. And I believe the time has come for me leave this task to anyone who can shoulder the responsibility in the way required by that stage.

['Alam-al-Din] Rumors have started in various areas about battles which will take place after the decision to disband the militias in the various areas of Lebanon. And there is also talk about disbanding them peacefully within the framework of the political agreement. Which solution will be implemented?

[Al-Huss] The question of disbanding the militias will be carried out in accordance with what is agreed in the national accord document, and there will be no need to use force to implement that step. This is because all those who committed themselves to the al-Ta'if agreement tacitly agreed on all that agreement's clauses, including the call for disbanding the militias within a specific period of time, namely six months from the date the constitutional reforms law is published. I believe that that question will not face any obstacles for more than one reason, first because there is pressure from public opinion in that direction. I believe that any quarter opposing implementation will face major political resistance from public opinion, which is looking forward with hope to the implementation of that step. Moreover, having implemented the process of unifying the Lebanese Army, the state now has the capability of implementing any task assigned to that Army. And finally, if a new broadly based reconciliatory government is formed, it is supposed to include all the influential forces in Lebanon, including the forces which have militias. This means that all the leaderships will be included in the government after they make the political decision to disband the militias.

['Alam-al-Din] In your view, will the new government's position—in terms of reconciliation, that is—be better than that of the present government?

[Al-Huss] It is not to do with individuals, but with the conditions in which the government works. Conditions in the past stage were very difficult, and we hope that conditions in the stage ahead will be much better than conditions in the past stage so that the government can perform in the way sought by all the Lebanese.

['Alam-al-Din] Has the solution started in Lebanon?

[Al-Huss] It is wrong to talk about the solution with the definite article with regard to Lebanon. It would be more appropriate to talk about phased solutions. Undoubtedly the steps achieved recently—most importantly the issuance of the constitutional reforms, then the elimination of the state of division led by former Army Commander Michel 'Awn—have moved the country to a different state. We are now marching toward the sought solution, and with the steps achieved we have made a long stride. And we hope that in the next stage we will advance further toward a radical solution to Lebanon's crisis.

['Alam-al-Din] Some say that Lebanon has benefited from the circumstances of the regional crisis and from international and regional detente. And there is talk about an international go-ahead for resolving or at least cooling down the Lebanese crisis?

[Al-Huss] I believe it is difficult to firmly say that the regional crisis was in the interests of a solution to the Lebanese crisis. In fact the Gulf crisis impacted negatively on the situation in Lebanon. The negative aspects were in the economic and social fields. As a result of the Gulf crisis, the deterioration turned into collapse—which put strong pressure on the regime and the government in Lebanon, thus threatening to spark off a sinister crisis. This is why the government moved to secure an urgent solution to the state that existed. The Lebanese Government had been able to coexist since its establishment with the state of division led by Michel 'Awn. It worked to resolve that state internally and externally by the various means. But the Gulf crisis' effects and subsequent results at the economic and social levels had their direct impact. And the step taken was prompted by the negative aspects resulting from the Gulf crisis.

['Alam-al-Din] We know that you were the first to condemn the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and you recently held extensive meetings with the U.S. President and many officials. Did you sense that Kuwait's recovery is inevitable and imminent?

[Al-Huss] Iraq's invasion of Kuwait angered us very much. And since the outset we have maintained a clear, principled, and open position. We strongly condemned the event because it constitutes a blatant violation of international laws, rules, and charters, especially the UN Charter. Besides, in principle we cannot endorse the strong's right to swallow up the weak, or the big's right to finish off the small, otherwise the law of the jungle would dominate international relations. And we are one of the small and weak states. It must be said that that event led to tension in the Arab and international atmosphere, and that has been reflected in the deployment of major international military forces in the Arab region, thus placing that region on the edge of a volcano again. That invasion has achieved nothing except to push the Arab nation into the furnaces of divisions and bring huge international military forces into the region, thus exposing it to countless dangers. And we hope that reason and logic will win and that the Iraqi Army will withdraw from Kuwaiti territory so that its legitimate government can be restored and its independent people can return. We know what war means, what losing the homeland means, and what losing security means.

Hizballah Urges 'Exclusion' of Lebanese Forces

NC2710120890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Political commentary: "The Victor and the Vanquished"]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The slogan no-victor-and-no-vanquished has gained popularity since the start of the Lebanese war. Whenever a strong blow is dealt to the Maronites' political design, the slogan is revived and Maronite spokesmen call for reconciliation among Lebanese proceeding from the premise that there is no victor and no vanquished.

Every time the Maronites make some gains due to hostile foreign intervention, however, as was the case during the 1982 Zionist invasion, their tone changes. At the time of the Zionist invasion [late Phalangist Party leader] Pierre al-Jumayyil said: A war was fought and the victor will dictate his conditions.

Today, sobered by the severe blow dealt to their partitionist policies and their designs to undermine the Arab and Islamic characteristics of Lebanon, Maronite politicians and clergymen have rediscovered the no-victor-and-no-vanquished slogan. The question now is: Can and should this slogan be applied? There are arguments both for and against the slogan.

If the slogan is taken as a call to rebuild Lebanon as a country able to provide its citizens with justice and equality, then it is a necessary concept which we propagated long before Maronite politicians discovered it. In fact, we have fought against the Maronite political scheme in order to defend such principles.

However, if the slogan is taken to mean that there will be no victor and no vanquished regarding the pro- or anti-Israeli line, then the slogan is both unacceptable and impossible. It is unacceptable, after all the sacrifices made by the resistance, to adopt the no-victor-and-no-vanquished principle since this would give Israel as much of a stake in Lebanon's future as is given to those who fought and stood against Israel.

It is unacceptable that anyone be included in the Lebanese settlement on the grounds that he is the pro-Israeli representative, regardless of what other disguise that person may assume. To be more specific, the Phalangist

[Lebanese] Forces have consistently acted as the representatives of the Israeli influence in Lebanon. The elimination of such influence means the exclusion of this group which has never convinced anyone of its patriotism or pan-Arabism.

The Lebanese Forces do not support a Lebanon with an Arab face. The Lebanese Forces have made it clear that they want Lebanon to become a part of the free world, that is to say, of the West and Israel. The Lebanese Forces do not accept Lebanon's identity as a part of the region. The Lebanese Forces want a French-speaking Lebanon, a Lebanon that mimics the Zionist entity's relations with the West. We have never heard the Lebanese Forces talking about Lebanon's liberation except in the sense of obliterating its anti-Israeli factions.

If the Lebanese Forces believe that they should become a part of the solution based on their known commitments, this is unacceptable, for it is tantamount to accepting the return of the Zionist influence to Lebanon under a difference guise. If, however unlikely, the Lebanese Forces have come to believe in a Lebanon that is hostile to Israel, in harmony with its milieu, and committed to Arab goals, then it may be possible to accept them as an equal among the Lebanese parties.

The Lebanese Forces cannot deceive anyone by claiming that they represent all the Christians, or even half of them. There are many Christians who are opposed to the Lebanese Forces and to their disruptive political policies.

We believe that the solution in Lebanon should be based on the existence of the victor and the vanquished. The victor is the nationalist, Islamic, and pan-Arab line and the parties opposed to Israel.

By the same token, the vanquished is the pro-Israeli line and those who have always served as a spearhead for Israel and its designs in the Lebanese territories and waters. The vanquished are those who have tried to gain the upper hand in Lebanon by soliciting foreign help, who have tried to oppress the majority of the Lebanese people, and who have lied about the future of the homeland. The vanquished are those who invited the Zionist army to occupy the country and bring it to heel. The vanquished are those who refused to extend their hand to their countrymen and reach a suitable and just settlement with them. The vanquished are those who still regard Lebanon as a Maronite fiefdom. The vanquished are those who held on to their privileges and chose to sacrifice the country, its independence, and its people to preserve these privileges.

This is the correct way to define the victor and the vanquished. Only those who are committed to this land and people and pledge allegiance to the choices of the majority are entitled to live in this country and share in its good as well as bad times. What we seek is the triumph of one doctrine over another, and not the triumph of one citizen over another or one community over another.

Cabinet Reviews Political Developments

JN3010171990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Excerpts] At 1100 today, the Council of Ministers held a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. [passage omitted] A political review was made at the session. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' explained Arab and international contacts and developments as well as Syria's positions on these developments. The Council of Ministers also discussed agriculture and health as well as other topics on its agenda and made the necessary decisions and took the necessary measures.

Khaddam Receives Lebanese Ministers

JN3010214890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam today received Dr. 'Ali al-Khalil, Lebanese minister of finance, and Dr. George Sa'adah, Lebanese telecommunications and post minister and leader of the Lebanese Phalangist Party. They discussed the situation in Lebanon and the steps taken to promote the Lebanese national accord, spread the legitimate authority, and achieve security and stability in that country.

Commentary Sees Invasion Gains for U.S., Israel

JN3110102090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, the U.S. Congress and President Bush's administration have reached an agreement to reduce the federal budget by $490 billion over the next five years. This will be achieved by more taxes and less government spending on social services, especially health insurance. At the same time, the Congress approved a bill of assistance to Israel totaling $4 billion, an increase of one billion over the past years. This means an additional heavy burden on U.S. citizens, coupled with loss of some basic health services.

If assistance to Israel is America's business alone, it is certainly not so when it takes the form of warplanes, tanks, guns, and missiles targeting the lands, existence, and future of the Arabs. Washington has used the stubborn Iraqi position on the Kuwait affair to supply the Israeli army with a Patriot missile system, assault helicopters, F-15 fighters, and various weaponry and ammunition worth $700 million. Moreover, the U.S. arms stockpile in Israel has been consolidated and placed at the disposal of the enemy leaders. Add to this $400 million to settle Soviet Jews and the fact that the U.S. secretary of the air force, who is currently visiting Israel at the head of a military delegation comprising senior U.S. Army officers, is studying Israel's needs firsthand.

This growing U.S. generosity in quantity and quality comes while Israel is defying the entire world community and perpetrating horrible crimes against Arab citizens in the occupied territories in a serious and blatant violation of human rights and UN principles and conventions.

The Security Council adopted two resolutions strongly condemning Israel and calling on it to receive a team to investigate the al- Haram-al-Sharif massacre. Israel rejected and defied the resolution, and instead of the United States applying real pressure on Israel—and it does not lack the ways and means to apply such pressure—it provided Israel with all kinds of assistance. This proves that through its position at the Security Council, the United States was only sparing itself any blame in order to mislead the Arabs and divert attention from the dangerous intentions of the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance against the Arab region. How can the international will maintain credibility if it is violated daily by Israel with the knowledge of the United States, which remains completely silent?

Israel's history is a series of brutal and extremely shameless acts. If there had been true respect for international law and principles, Israel's rulers would have been in the international dock for their massacres and crimes. But they act as they please thanks to the U.S. cover. They continue their criminal and terrorist schemes without fear of being called to account. It seems that killing Arabs, uprooting them, seizing their resources and property, and settling alien Jews in their lands is a U.S. requirement.

Israel's weaponry is wholly American, and U.S. taxpayers are financing acts of settlement and expansion. Does this not mean a U.S. war against the present, future, and existence of the Arab nation? All this arouses suspicion and doubt about Washington's claims that it is exerting peaceful efforts in the region. Massive U.S. aid does not lead to peace. It enhances Israel's aggressive acts and its occupation of Arab lands. This is clearly reflected in Israel's defiance of the international community and its public announcement that it rejects the Security Council's authority and resolutions. It is also reflected in the continuation of settlements in Jerusalem and the occupied Arab territories without any regard to the UN resolutions.

Does this not require an Arab revision of all the situations and positions in the region? This is what Syria has called for out of faith to its nation and its causes and out of constant eagerness that Palestine remain the Arabs' primary issue. It is for this reason that Syria has absolutely rejected Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and called upon Iraq to withdraw its forces immediately and to concentrate Arab efforts on our fateful struggle against Israel and Zionism.

It is by no means acceptable for the Arabs to fight among themselves, since there is an Israeli enemy lying in wait for them and planning further aggressive and expansionist wars against their lands, resources, and existence. And we can see now how the United States takes advantage, and Israel reaps the fruit of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. It is high time we returned things to normal through immediate withdrawal. This would help sincere Arabs to unite the Arabs and mobilize their resources against Israel and the American-Israeli strategic alliance.

Columnist Foresees U.S.-Israeli 'Aggression'

JN3010113490 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 25 Oct 90 p 3

["With the Events" column by 'Abd-al-Karim 'Abd-al-Rahim: "Tel Aviv, Washington and the Dangerous Intentions"]

[Text] U.S. political violations derive their legal support from the Congress; that is, from the highest political forces in the center of the U.S. capital, and which are basically allied with Judaism and its condemned racist movement—Zionism.

This fact explains the veto against condemning "Israel" when it committed the bloody massacre against Gazan workers on black Sunday this year. This fact also explains how Washington prevented, with the threat of the veto, the Security Council from adopting decisive resolutions to protect Palestinians following the al-Haram al-Sharif massacre in Jerusalem at the beginning of this month.

Washington has been using the developments in the region politically and militarily to cover up the transformation of the Zionist enemy into an invading force capable of disregarding UN and Council resolutions, so that the Zionist enemy can finally annex the occupied Arab territories, make Jerusalem its united capital, threaten the security of Arab states, and impose its deceiving policy on the whole world.

For, while the whole world is preoccupied with the Kuwaiti issue and the Gulf crisis, Washington is supplying the Zionist enemy with Patriot surface-to-surface antimissile missiles, in addition to ammunition, modern fighter aircraft, and military helicopters, which are covered under a financial grant totaling $700 million to be decided upon by the Congress.

At the same time, Washington is piling up its military arsenal inside the Zionist entity. This arsenal is made up of modern U.S. weaponry, ammunition for this weaponry, or ammunition for the weapons with which it had already supplied the Zionist entity. The strategic cooperation agreement enables the enemy to use the stockpiled weaponry or ammunition if it needs them; that is, when it decides to use them to attack Arab countries, the Palestinian people in the occupied homeland, or the Palestinian camps.

Washington has not contented itself with expediting Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine and settling emigrants in the occupied Arab territories—whose Arabism is confirmed by UN and Security Council resolutions; it also concluded international deals to support this emigration and provided $400 million to build houses for immigrant Jews on land on which they are prohibited by international law and justice to settle.

Undoubtedly, the dangerous intentions Israel, the United States, and some Western countries are harboring for us have now turned into action, armament, and Judaization. These intentions will soon be transformed into an aggression against one or more Arab capital, in a similar way to the Zionist invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

Al-Asad's Syria, which refuses to bargain over its national and pan-Arab causes, is sounding the alarm once more so that all Arabs will know that our main battle can only be against our undisguised enemy that has occupied our lands and conspired against our sanctities. Preoccupying the Arab homeland with peripheral issues and intentions that have no basis whatsoever in pan-Arab thought only serves the scheme to impose hegemony on our nation and terminating its civilized role in this part of the world.

We refuse today, as we always have, to fall into the trap laid by Washington, Tel Aviv, and others to do away with our national and pan-Arab causes.

Afghanistan

Iran-Based Rebels See Only Military Solution

LD3010184990 Tehran IRNA in English 1717 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 30, IRNA—Only a military solution is possible for the Afghan issue, a spokesman for the Islamic Unity Party (IUP) which groups Iran-based mujahideen told a press conference here Tuesday.

Spokesman Rahmatollah Mortazawi said "all Afghan combatant groups based in Iran or Pakistan as well as those active inside Afghanistan, have come to the conclusion that no political solution exists for toppling the Kabul regime, and that military action is a must."

He promised that IUP and its Afghan-based central committee and military commanders "will launch large scale military operations against the regime in Kabul at an appropriate time and place."

Mortazawi ruled out any foreign military aid for the planned operations and said "we are going to launch the strike with our own capabilities."

He expressed hope that next year be the year of victory for the Afghan Muslim people.

The only issue at point between the Iran and Pakistan based mujahideen is the D-day of their joint military operations against the Afghan regime, added the spokesman.

USSR Military Delegation Arrives for Talks

LD3010203190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] A group of Soviet military experts arrived in Kabul today for talks with officials of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan.

'Extremists' Killed in Kabul Operations

LD3110064490 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0447 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 30, BAKHTAR—The contingents and the detachments of the armed forces have launched mopping up operations yesterday and today in lower and upper Arghande, Kabol Province, during which a number of extremists were either killed or injured, reported a BAKHTAR military correspondent.

Besides, a large amount of the enemies arms and ammunitions including 20 ground-to-ground rockets of Sakr-20 type, 12 BM shells, 60 of cannon shells and thousands of various kinds of bullets were seized.

Based on another report, twelve followers of the Rabbani groupings were captured alive during operation conducted by the personnel of the state security organs in the Dzangali and Boria villages of the Balkh Province. A rocket launcher, 8 Kalashnikovs and thousands of different kinds of bullets were seized.

Report adds, Mulah 'Abdul Ghafar a ringleader of the Rabbani grouping and two of his followers were killed on Tuesday during an ambush by the state security organs in that province too.

A number of the members of the group were injured and their arms were seized.

'Severe Armed Clashes' Between Extremists

LD3110071590 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0446 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] Kabul Oct 30, BAKHTAR—Severe armed clashes which have started two weeks ago between the Gulbuddin and the Gaylani groupings in the Khvajeh Sabz district of Faryab Province going on in full swing.

A BAKHTAR military correspondent reported that, 50 persons were killed from the both sides and 30 others were injured during the clashes in which the sides used heavy weapons including ground to ground rockets.

Amanullah, the ringleaders of the Gulbuddin extremist group was forced to leave his headquarters and all of the group arms depots were occupied by the rival groups.

Following the capturing of the said places, Arbab Hafiz, the ringleader of the Gaylani group starting looting peoples properties as a result of these barbaric actions, three hundreds families were compelled to leave their houses.

During these clashes, 25 persons of that localities were also killed and heavy material losses were inflicted.

Besides, the Gaylani groupings have captured alive a group of the Gulbuddin band and disarmed it there as well.

Based on another report, as a result of continuation of revengeful attacks between the Gulbuddin and the Rabbani groupings a centre of the Rabbani group was occupied by the rival one, in Jagab district, Kapisa Province, today, a ringleaders of the Rabbani group was killed and five others were injured.

Furthermore, tens of extremists were either killed or injured during the armed clashes took place between the Gulbuddin and Ahmad Shah Mas'ud groupings in the Takhar Province. Five Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's followers were captured alive.

Bangladesh

Government Unveils Fourth Five-Year Plan

BK3110074790 Hong Kong AFP in English 0730 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 31 (AFP)—Bangladesh will spend 689.3 billion taka (19.5 billion dollars) in its fourth five-year development plan and will focus on increasing state property, Vice-President Moudud Ahmed said Wednesday.

The government wanted a "speedy rise" in economic growth and poverty alleviation to reach its target, Mr. Ahmed told a press conference held one day after the plan's approval was announced.

If Bangladesh could achieve a five per cent annual growth rate over the next five years—barring local or international crises—it would enter a new socio-economic era, he said.

The plan allots 419.3 billion taka (11.65 billion dollars) to the public sector and an estimated 270 billion taka (7.5 billion dollars) to the private sector, Mr. Ahmed said.

New projects would only be approved if they offered potentially high returns and public sector investments would be discouraged, he said.

Mr. Ahmed said the 64 sub-districts, which currently receive 17.5 million taka (486,111 dollars) from the government for wages and other costs, would have to do more to raise funds from their own resources.

The plan, which comes into effect later this year, gives priority to the jamuna multi-purpose bridge, flood control, education, family welfare and power generation.

It also targets job creation, but "no unnecessary employment would be permitted," Mr. Ahmed said.

Environmental work would receive higher priority, after the disastrous 1988 floods which killed more than 2,000 people, he said.

Mr. Ahmed said the Jamuna Multi-Purpose Bridge had raised 2,500 million taka (69.5 million dollars) in levies, of which about 900 million taka (25 million dollars) had been spent on survey work and approach road construction.

He said the plan documented the government's commitment to its people's welfare.

India

Sports Minister Resigns From Singh's Cabinet

BK3110090290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] The deputy minister for sports and youth affairs, Mr. Bhakta Charan Das, has resigned from the Council of Ministers today. He has sent in his resignation letter to the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh.

Uttar Pradesh Situation Tense, 'Under Control'

BK3110035990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the overall situation is reported to be tense but under control. According to an official spokesman the situation in the curfew-bound towns remained generally peaceful last night with no report of any major incident. However, reports of some incidents of group clashes and arson have come in from Bijnor and Muzaffarnagar Districts. The army also staged flag marches in some sensitive towns to instill confidence among the people. Army has been deployed in Bijnor to help the civil administration in maintaining law and order. The spokesman denied reports that the twin cities of Ayodhya and Faizabad have been handed over to the army. The commissioner of Faizabad division told our correspondent this morning that no untoward incident has been reported since last night. The curfew in these cities, however, continues.

In Kanpur, the administration has ordered closure of all government offices, public sector undertakings, factories, shops and business establishments for today.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi yesterday that curfew has been imposed in several towns in the state as a precautionary measure. He said the prime minister is in constant touch with the chief minister, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav.

An official spokesman said in Lucknow yesterday that the disputed area of Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine] complex has been cleared of kar sevaks [volunteers to build temple] and the original structure of the complex is fully intact. The spokesman emphatically denied that any kar seva [voluntary service to build temple] was performed yesterday.

However, both the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] claimed that the kar seva was performed at the shilanyas [foundation stone] site though late in the day.

Death Toll From Gujarat Violence Reaches 16

BK3110050590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] In Gujarat, the death toll in yesterday's violent incidents has risen to 16. In Ahmadabad, eight persons were killed in stabbing and police firing. One person was burned alive last night.

In Baroda City, five persons were killed in violent incidents. One person was killed in Baroda District and another in Panch Mahal District. The situation in the curfew-bound areas has been reported to be peaceful except in Ahmadabad where the situation is reported to be tense but under control. Indefinite curfew continues in Bhadra and Halol, Godra Bharuch, Jamrudpur and some areas of Ahmadabad and Baroda. A strict vigil is maintained throughout the state.

Roundup of Security Situation in States

BK3110100590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the situation in the twin cities of Faizabad and Ayodhya is reported to be peaceful. Senior officers camping in the city are now concentrating on the security arrangements in and around the disputed site of the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid issue. Quoting official sources, AIR [All India Radio] Lucknow correspondent reports that the security has further been tightened in the radius of the two-km area. The district administration is making transport arrangements to send the stranded pilgrims to their destinations. Those injured in yesterday's incident are being provided adequate medical care.

Meanwhile, some prominent Muslim leaders in Faizabad have hailed the government's action to protect the structure at Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid site. The five-member team, which visited the area, told our correspondent that the building is intact and there is no damage to it. The members of the team are: Khalid Ahmad Khan, correspondent of NAI DUNIYA, Delhi; Maulana Sajjad Ahmad Khan, Imam, Jama Masjid [prayer leader of the grand mosque], Sarai Pukhta, Faizabad; Hafiz Abdul Hafiz, amir, Jamaat-i-Islami Hind, Faizabad; Mohammad Yunus Siddiqi, chairman, Babri Masjid Action Committee, Faizabad; and Ziauddin, member, Tache Masjid. They decried fundamentalism and appreciated the efforts to strengthen secularism.

The situation in the curfew-bound areas of 16 towns, including Lucknow city, is peaceful. An official spokesman said some sporadic incidents of arson and stone throwing have been reported from Bijnor and Muzaffarnagar districts. Army contingents deployed in Bijnor are assisting the civil administration in maintaining law and order. Army contingents staged a flag march in some sensitive towns today. Relaxation in curfew has been given in Kanpur from 1300 to 1600 in eight police station areas following improvement in the situation.

In Bihar, the curfew has been relaxed from 1100 for three hours in the curfew-bound Ranchi today. The situation in the town remained tense but under control. However, indefinite curfew has been imposed in the remaining portion of Ranchi municipal area and night curfew in Hathia and Jagannathpur police station areas as a precautionary measure.

In Andhra Pradesh, no report of untoward incident has been received from the old and the new city of Hyderabad since last night. The curfew clamped on Monday evening following violent incidents has been extended up to 1800 tomorrow. The violence in the city has so far claimed 13 lives.

In Jammu and Kashmir, Jammu, Udhampur, and some other towns observed a bundh [strike] today in protest against the killing in police firing of the kar sevaks [volunteers to build a temple] in Ayodhya yesterday.

In Gujarat, no untoward incident has been reported today from anywhere so far. The indefinite curfew continues in Hanol, Bharuch, Padra, Jam Jodhpur, Godhra, Mudasa, and some areas of Baroda and Ahmedabad cities as a precautionary measure. Eighteen people were killed in violent incidents in different parts of the state yesterday.

The Himachal Pradesh cabinet, in an emergency meeting today, condemned the lathi [baton] charge and firing on the kar sevaks at Ayodhya yesterday. The chief minister, Mr. Shanta Kumar, told our correspondent that the Council of Ministers has also decided to observe a day's fast tomorrow to protest against the use of force by the Uttar Pradesh government in Ayodhya.

The Congress-I has expressed concern over the loss of lives and damage to property at Ayodhya yesterday. In a press statement issued in New Delhi today, the secretary of the Congress-I parliamentary party, Mr. E.R. Ambrasu, crticized the use of force against the devotees. He demanded that adequate compensation should be given to the affected families immediately. Mr. Ambrasu suggested that an all-party fact-finding committee should visit Ayodhya to study the situation.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] today accused the government media of giving distorted and misleading information about the events in Ayodhya. The party general secretary, Mr. K.R. Sharma, also criticized the police firing and lathi charge at Ayodhya yesterday. In a statement in New Delhi, he allleged that the government had tried to prevent Panch-Kosi Parikarma [Hindu rituals] at Ayodhya in violation of the high court and Supreme Court orders. Mr. Sharma claimed that kar seva started yestesrday and will continue.

Iran

Bahraini Foreign Minister Visits Tehran

Arrives 31 October

LD3110113890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahrain minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Tehran this morning at the head of a political delegation. He was met by Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati.

In an interview with our reporter upon his arrival in Tehran the Bahraini foreign minister expressed his satisfaction with the trip and said that his country's relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran are very good. He elaborated on the aim of his trip which is to deepen bilateral relations and said that he is carrying a message from the amir of Bahrain for Hashemi- Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The message contains the Bahraini Government's decision and hope for the expansion of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He said that the main points of discussions with Iranian officials will be on the expansion of mutual relations and developments in the Persian Gulf.

Discusses Gulf With President

LD3110180190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] The president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, received Mr. Shaykh Muhammad bin Mubarak, the Bahraini foreign affairs minister, this evening.

The Bahraini foreign affairs minister handed over a written message and the warm greetings of the Amir of Bahrain. He said: Iran-Bahrain relations are very profound, and recent developments have encouraged us to cooperate further with your country. Islamic concerns, geographic proximity, and common interests necessitate the day-by-day expansion of those relations. He added: The Persian Gulf region is facing very great development, therefore consultations with the Islamic Republic of Iran are very useful for the government and the people of Bahrain and all countries of the region.

Referring to world developments and to the way in which many countries of the world are becoming united, the Bahraini foreign affairs minister said: We should further cooperate in the region as members of a family. We hope that through the support and cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and other countries, the security of the region will be safeguarded. He called on the Islamic Republic of Iran to further cooperate and support the countries of the Persian Gulf region.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, expressed thanks for the friendly message of the amir of Bahrain. He continued: The cooperation of the countries of the region is to the advantage of all people of the region and no doubt the world will also benefit from the security and the cooperation of our region's countries.

Stating his concern over the daily increasing presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region, the president stressed: The Persian Gulf region is not a place that if made insecure can leave the rest of the world in peace. He added: The region's present geographical condition should be left secure, otherwise any change in borders will seriously endanger the region's security.

At the end of that meeting our country's president announced the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness for the expansion and consolidation of comprehensive relations with the Muslim countries of the Persian Gulf.

Meets With Velayati

LD3110182290 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak al Khalifah, the Bahraini foreign minister—who arrived this morning in Tehran at the head of a political delegation—submitted this afternoon, in a meeting with Foreign Minister Velayati, a report on the recent meeting of the foreign ministers of the member countries of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in Riyadh. Referring to the recent joint session of foreign ministers of member countries of that Council and the Islamic Republic of Iran in New York, he described the cooperation of the region's countries with Iran as a crucial factor in solving regional problems without the interference and presence of others. He also stated the Bahraini authorities' interest in further expanding relations with Iran.

During that meeting, Mr. Velayati also—in stressing the need for further cooperation between the countries of the region in achieving lasting peace and security—emphasized that a practical plan for achieving regional security should be drawn up without the presence and interference of foreign forces. The expansion of bilateral ties wase also discussed.

President Promises Efforts To Prevent Gulf War

LD3110175490 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Announcer-read report on a meeting between President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Ibrahim Zakaria, Nigeria minister of state for external affairs, on 31 October; place of meeting not given—recorded]

[Text] President Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Mr. Ibrahim Zakaria, this evening the Nigerian minister of state for external affairs.

Mr. Ibrahim Zakaria submitted during the meeting the written message of Mr. Babangida, his country's president, and expressed concern over the current crisis in the Persian Gulf. He said:

We believe Nigeria and the entire world can be affected by the current crisis in the Persian Gulf. It is in that regard that our president believes leaders such as officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran can play a significant role in stopping the outbreak of war in the region. Mr. Zakaria, referring to the fact that 75 percent of the people of Nigeria are Muslims, expressed the hope that Iran-Nigeria ties would expand further.

Then Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, expressing his thanks for the brotherly message of the Nigerian president, said:

We place much importance on ties with the Muslim country of Nigeria and we assess as positive the efforts and policies of Mr. Babangida, and we think it is to the interest of the Islamic world to support him and your country can count on the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the point that the Persian Gulf crisis serves the interests of none of the countries of the region and said:

We have also called upon Iraq to end its occupation of Kuwait and we will apply all our efforts to stop the outbreak of war in the region.

Finally, our country's president stressed that the two countries' relations should expand further.

Rafsanjani Discusses Gulf With Japanese Envoy

LD3110173790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani this afternoon received Mr. Matsunaga, the special envoy of Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Kaifu. The special envoy of Japan's prime minister said when submitting the written message of the prime minister of his country and giving a report on his talks with Iranian officials: We regard the Islamic Republic of Iran as possessing strength and political influence in the region; we are also aware of the fact that Iran has condemned Iraq's aggression against Kuwait, and we attach great weight to this step.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani then expressed thanks for the kind message of Mr. Kaifu. He continued: The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that if international sanctions against Iraq are implemented in a serious way they will be effective, and the Islamic Republic of Iran supports international measures regarding the current crisis in the region.

Referring to the merciless massacre of Palestinian Muslims by the forces occupying Jerusalem, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Without doubt such events would not take place without U.S. support for the Zionist regime, and that usurper regime would not have carried out the massacre of innocent and defenseless Palestinian Muslims.

At the end of this meeting, the president welcomed Mr. Kaifu's expressed desire to visit Iran, and stressed his wish for the expansion of political, economic, and cultural cooperation and relations between Iran and Japan.

Yazdi Notes Majority in Majles Support Velayati

LD3010162790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Mr. Yazdi, the head of the judiciary, who is currently on a visit to East Mazanderan aimed at inspecting the judicial affairs and meeting the clerics, the officials, and the inhabitants of that region, held a meeting with East Mazanderan officials this morning, at which he examined the issues related to the region, as well as its judicial problems. [passage omitted]

In the course of the session held in the presence of Shiite and Sunni theologians, the governor-general of Mazanderan, the judges, and the shari'ah judges, and other officials from the management organizations and the Islamic revolution foundations of East Mazanderan, Mr. Yazdi paid tribute to the lofty rank of the great founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God's blessings be upon him, and praised the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. He said: The recent stance adopted by the leader of the Islamic revolution demonstrated that the rank of Velayat [velayat-e faqih: vice-regency of the supreme jurisconsul] in the Islamic system has kept a constant watch over the entire aspects and issues of the community, and this is the very same thing as the legal capacity of trusteeship, control over the system, and a taking a comprehensive view of the entire issues of the society. Praise be to God, hitherto our sacared system has achieved remarkable successes in all stages.

Elsewhere in his speech, the head of the judiciary commented on the significance of the Majles and the lofty positions of the Majles deputies, and praised the recent remarks delivered by Mr Karrubi, the honorable speaker of the Majles, and noted the manner in which the venerable speaker of the Majles explicitly declared his categorical suport for the great leadership. This is a cause for much joy and delight, since we are aware that the Majles has always strode along the path of the revolution and served the interests of Islam. The decisive majority of the Majles deputies are in favor of Velayat, and if, God forbid, an individual utters remark in that connection, that should not be seen as representative of the Majles view. [passage omitted]

RESALAT Reports on 30 Sep Majles Session

PM3110091490 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 1 Oct 90 p 5

[Excerpts] Report on yesterday's open session of the Majles.

Legal and parliamentary section—The Majles held an open session yesterday chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemiyan.

During this session, following speeches given by deputies from Qom, Ramiyan and Tehran, the Majles entered into session.

Below are the speeches of the pre-agenda speakers and the bills passed by the Majles.

It is worth mentioning that the speech given by Hojjat ol-Eslam Shar'i, deputy from Qom, was printed in yesterday's edition of the newspaper.

Hoseyn Arbabi-fard, people's deputy from Ramiyan: The action of those who continue to cause dissent after a warning from the respected leader, shows their lack of belief in the velayat-e faqih.

The second pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr Arbabi-fard from the constituency of Ramiyan.

He said: The Almighty God decided that if He were to take away a shining jewel such as the imam from us, the path of His wisdom and His mercy should not only dry up for the people, but because of the great and imam-like leadership of Ayatollah Khamene'i, the glory of Islam and the Islamic ummah would grow in the world. This all comes from this ummah relying on God and its unity which focuses on the velayat-e faqih. [Passage omitted] Until such time that the unity of the Hezbollah is focused on the velayat-e faqih, we are sure that we should fear none except God.

He thanked the people for their presence in the millions during the march for unity and victory, and continued: The enemy, in reply to the sense of revenge for the blows that it has received from Islam, will not stop plotting. It will mobilize all its resources against this revolution and through the passing of time, and by discovering sensitive areas it takes steps to achieve its goals.

In another section of his speech Mr Arbabi-fard said: The Council of Experts for the leadership, which is made up of the top-ranking ulema in this country, has felt a responsibility in keeping its glory and has therefore corrected some portions of its regulations dealing with its elections. After this correction, one deputy in the Majles and then several Majles deputies objected to these corrections. They complained that the manner in which the corrections were approved was not proper and against the law. In this connection the leadership of the Council of Experts including Ayatollah Meshkini and Ayatollah Mo'men provided some sound reasoning through the mass media for the people's information. After this stage, some people who had objected were convinced and did not say anything about this any more. But unfortunately, the criticisms and the statements of some other people were full of poison. It gradually became clear that for those who had voiced objections, their problem was not that they did not understand the issue, but that they had felt that with the clarification of the conditions for election, including the principle of separate subjects of expertise for jurisconsults, several people who had sown the robes for the job would not have the chance to become candidates. This is why they dragged the issue into factionalism despite the fact that the rule had said that the candidates should have separate areas of specialization in terms of their knowledge. In order to safeguard unity, the decision in this regard was left up to the respected Council of Guardians whose justice, piety and wisdom have been proven by the fact that they were chosen by the Imam and later by the respected leader. Those who were objecting were even demanding that not only should it not be necessary to be a jurisconsult, but that there should be a way for civilians and non-clerics to become candidates for the Council of Experts as well.

He stressed: Many of these people have indicated that their motive is because they are sympathetic toward the revolution and want to strengthen Velayat-e Faqih. There was not the slightest doubt, but the statement of the respected leader on Wednesday 12 September removed even the smallest of doubts. It made clear that the leader considers any questioning of the rulings of the Experts to be a sign of irresponsibility. He warned them that they had to be careful of their speeches which made our enemies happy, our friends sad, and the people annoyed. He added: "How can one have doubts about the decisions of such great personalities?" In the final conclusion, in order to clarify the issue for those who felt that they were objecting to the rulings because of a feeling of sympathy, the leader said clearly: "The rulings of the council of Experts and the regulations passed by them are all correct in every way. When an issue is approved, even those in opposition must in their actions defend the rulings."

Unfortunately, those whose slogans are formed within the revolution but whose political life is spent in opposition and creating dissent, did not forgo their stubborn attitudes. It seems their hearts are stamped with a mark that not even the water from the Zamzam spring can cleanse.

The people's deputy from Ramikyan added: There was a Majles deputy who last Wednesday at the start of his speech took God as witness and swore that he only means to carry out his religious duties. Then by mentioning an open letter, most of which is in riddles, he tried to sully the image of revolutionary figures and holy men of the respected Qom theological center who are the pride of Islam and the revolution and approved by the Imam. Then he announced that "as of a few months ago factionalism and an effort to remove some forces in the line of the Imam from the Council of Experts have become stronger."

Mr Farzad, do you think that if someone is not prepared to prove his qualifications and knowledge to the clerics of the respected Council of Guardians, in accordance with the ruling of the Experts, that the respected Council of Guardians should forget its legal and religious duty and act against the law to approve the gentlemen's qualifications, just so there will be no accusations of factionalism? Or, do you think that they should not obey the order of the leader of Muslim affairs with regard to carrying out the law in the elections of the Council of Experts so that some people, who will not be satisfied unless they can have the whole of the revolution and the regime, can be pleased? I must say that Imam 'Ali—peace be unto him and his family—in verse 172 of Nahj ul-Balaghah talks about the qualities of the leader and the way he should be chosen. [passage omitted]

Mr Arbabi added: But there are those who continue to cause dissent even after the warning of the respected Velayat-e faqih and the announcement of his views which include all issues. This action of theirs is proof that they do not believe in the Velayat-e Faqih. Their malevolence against the Islamic revolution springs forth from their black political background. With this action they have lost their legitimacy to be in the Majles. Those who accuse the respected Council of Guardians of factionalism should know that their presence in the Majles is proof that their accusations are false. They think that if they address themselves to more and more holy organizations, their positions in society will be elevated. They think that their names should be mentioned any way possible, which reminds one of the old legend of how Hatam Ta'is brother became famous.

There were some candidates who from before were against having the minimum level of jurisconsult for membership in the Experts. This was perhaps because they knew the level of their own knowledge. They hoped to create much noise in speeches and so forth, so as to create perhaps a situation whereby they would not have to sit for the examination. They see themselves as exclusively in the line of the imam, but they should know that the imam named 1980 onwards the year of the law.

Those who think that they can sting and make a lot of noise and impose themselves, should be careful because this issue is different from the others. Opposition to and weakening the Council of Experts that chooses the leadership, this fundamental backbone of the revolution and Velayat-e Faqih is not something that our dedicated and religious people can bear. This path will lead to a declaration of war against the holy regime of the Islamic Republic.

He added: Those who feel sympathy for the revolution, in accordance with the guidance of the respected leader, know that being a revolutionary is not summed up in slogans. Being a revolutionary means believing in the revolution's values and the laws of the land. Otherwise if someone wants to sully the laws of the country and the regulations of the regime, under the banner of revolutionary slogans, it is clear that he has taken steps toward anarchy and counterrevolution and is helping the enemy. The real lovers of the revolution take their guidance from the teachings of the Koran and the advice of our departed imam, making their utmost effort to keep the unity within the framework of Velayat-e Faqih. Unfortunately, one of these people in the minority opposition wrote an open letter stressing that it be known he was against Velayat-e Faqih. Following the direct and clear guidelines of the respected leader and his approval of the decisions of the experts in terms of their form, this person opposed the ruling of the Experts in terms of their form and content. Unfortunately this person not only owes his political life and knowledge to the kindness of the respected leader, but also the reason why he was elected was because his name is similar to that of the leader.

Mr Arbabi-fard added: In any case only 1 week remains before the elections for the Experts. Even though some people—the liberals and the hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq guerrillas] may boycott the elections as they have done in the past, our people, with a high level of political understanding, are preparing themselves for these fate-determining elections. If God is willing, as before, with their steadfast presence they will once again disappoint the enemies of the revolution, meaning world aggression headed by the Great Satan United States and its lackies.

Sadeq Khakhali, people's deputy from Qom:

Attacking the Council of Guardians is not only against Velayat-e Faqih, but it is what Velayat-e Faqih is all about.

The third pre-agenda speaker was Mr Khalkhali, deputy for the people of Qom who said:

There is no question that the Majles recognizes it to be its duty to obey the leadership. That is their belief, but this does not mean we should not say what we feel about the Council of Guardians. Of course the law should be respected, just as Mr Shar'i and Mr Arbabi-fard said. But we have to see where this law is. The law is the law—personal preference does not come into it.

I say these things so that there may be proof for the respected leader, the regime, the oppressed, students, workers, toilers, POW's and the families of the martyrs and so that it may be recorded in history. They should know who has acted wrongly and who acts within the law. The writing of the imam, his handwriting and his words are law for us and noone can damage that.

He added: One of the great men of Qom who knows about this issue and, perhaps he is very wise and respectable, said: "The group opposing you is prepared to have 100 Jews and Christians entering the Council of Experts, but not one of you." We say you should carry out the law. When the title of the leader is separated from that of the source of emulation, then none of these things are necessary. All this small detailed work is to determine the source of emulation. We want to see where the law was obeyed and where it was not. Unfortunately the Council of Guardians has not acted in accordance with the Constitution and the statements of the Imam. About the time of the elections for the second Majles Mr Emami-Kashani telephoned me to say that I should resign. I said, no, I am not going to resign. Then I said: What has happened? He said: There are things in your file that you have killed people. (Perhaps they are asking why I executed drug smugglers. You are not executing them by the score, yet you are candidates.)

In any case the issue went to the imam's office. When we went to see the imam we saw that Mr Mohtashami was sitting there with his hands tied. He had tied his hands and arms and he was waiting to see the imam. He was expecting to go before us but because our job had to do with a crisis, we went ahead. After I said some things I said some people are SAVAK members and some are policemen, but for us some are both SAVAK members and policemen. What is this situation that they have created for us? The imam said: They talk rubbish. I will announce your integrity. The imam told Mr Ahmad to go and phone Mr Emami-Kashani to say that Khomeyni accepted Mr Khalkhali. Mr Ahmad called Mr Kashani in front of me and said the imam accepted my qualifications. In any case I came to the Majles even though there was some provocation in the Majles to reject my qualifications. Then the speaker read out a decree by the imam dated 15 March 1979 addressed to him:

"In the name of God—Hojjat ol-Eslam Mr Haj Sheykh Sadeq Khalkhali, greetings. You have the duty to take part in a court which will put on trial those accused and prisoners. Following all the preliminaries of the court, you are to issue sentences in accordance with religious law.

[Signed] Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni

Mr Khalkhali added: With this decree in hand I went and executed those of the past regime and I confiscated their property. Now you say that I am not worthy. Then the Foundation of the Oppressed should be closed down because the confiscations were done with my signature. Even the property of the Shah, I signed all of them. Then you say why? I told the imam that they will not leave me alone later so it is best if you write something, which he did:

"I would like to inform you that your letter, which guarantees my affection and was full of fondness and kindness, arrived, for which one is thankful. I cannot forget your kindness nor your role in his holy mission. The efforts that you have made at this sensitive time in the face of danger will never be forgotten. If God is willing they will please God."

Now I will read the writing of Ayatollah Khamene'i:

"Respected Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mr Khalkhali, greetings. General Shadmehr, chief of the joint staff has taken action to start and activate revolution courts and military courts in accordance with the law. Would you please accept the responsibility, if asked, to act as religious judge in some of these courts." I accepted that responsibility. Now what do you say? The path of the imam is the law for us.

Mr. Emami-Kashani, Mr. Khaz'ali, Mr. Mo'men and other gentlemen, this is the handwriting of the imam. This is the imam's seal. Before he died the imam gave me the order to head the theological center at Hazrat-e Abdol-azim [southern suburb of Tehran] and now you want to say these things are not right? What have you got to say to this? Perhaps you will say that there is a file and in that file. Mr Khalkhali has sentenced someone to death. Yes, a jurisconsult and a judge make mistakes, so go and pay the blood money. It is the imam's prediction and he said that if Mr Khalkhali recognized that someone should not be executed and then later says that he should be executed, then go and execute him. I cannot believe this, and something like this is not possible. Perhaps this is what the Council of Guardians is claiming. You were not the religious judge for me to come day and night, night and day to consult with you. I have nothing to do with you. I was the religious judge. I sowed the cloth, I tore it up. I confiscated. I executed. I made the decision. There were none to challenge the case. I was the imam's judge and I even wanted to realize the rights of the people who were guilty. The same thing applied to Mr Bayat. Anyone in this country who wants to speak against the Council of Guardians, they immediately say he is against Velayat-e Faqih. No, this is not against Velayat-e Faqih. This is what Velayat-e Faqih is all about. I wish to tell Mr Khamene'i that these people who have gathered in some places and in some newspapers, they will not have mercy on you during sensitive times. These are undesirable people. I do not wish to name them. This will be announced in a statement by the Majles. Perhaps these things will be said and it is necessary for this statement to be issued. We do not obey you but rather obey the Vali-e Faqih. Perhaps you do not allow some matters to reach the Velayat-e Faqih. Mr Mohtashami has said some things about the Council of Experts which are his own affair. I have nothing to do with him. When I met with Mr Khamane'i 2 or 3 weeks ago he said: "I am against tension. One must not cause tension." This is not causing tension. One group of first-rate revolutionaries were always behind the imam, and were in exile and in prison; now you come and remove them from posts and then say we want to act according to the law. It is like the old saying of the person who always acted against the law who said that they had thrown plant seeds in the dynamite. When they set the thing on fire, the flames rose up and the man claimed he did not say it was full of plant seeds. Now this is exactly like it is. You have the radio. You have the television. You have newspapers. Do whatever you like. You say it is the law but if anyone complains, you say it is against Velayat-e Faqih. What kind of Velayat-e Faqih is this when the Imam used to control them at sensitive times? Mr. Khamene'i, he would not allow these people to become so bold, to crush the people's dignity.

He concluded by saying: They came and organized examinations for the candidates' qualifications. They set it at general jurisprudence, not specialized jurisprudence. Everyone who is familiar with this recognizes that there is a difference between general jurisprudence and specialized jurisprudence. You came and rejected some people because of empty excuses. I hereby give an ultimatum. The price of this Majles is the blood of Muslims. The future must not be such that the Hojjatiyyeh organization and the likes of the Halabis—whom they have to visit each morning—gain control over the Majles.

'Abbas Duzduzani, people's deputy from Tehran.

Mr. Duzduzani, the deputy for the people of Tehran was the last pre-agenda speaker who started his speech by saying: I intended to speak but a group of deputies issued a statement and since I agreed with the statement I will read it out over the microphones.

In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. Greetings to the lofty and shining spirit of the great leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni—may his passage to paradise be expedited. We wish health and long life and continued success along the path of the Imam for the respected leader of the revolution Ayatollah Khamene'i.

The sensitive and crucial circumstance of our country is the heaviest point for the Islamic revolution which is the source of hope for more than 1 billion Muslims throughout the world. This is especially true since the heartbreaking death of the imam—may God's peace be with him—and it is something that everyone knows. This situation invites us on the one hand to maintain unity, stay away from dissent, and to use those elements who cause dissent. On the other hand, and this is even more important, it invites us to strengthen the fundamental ideals and values of the Islamic revolution, based on and programmed within the line and views of the imam—God bless his soul—as the permanent and secure unchanging path of the Islamic revolution. It is natural that the Islamic revolution, before its success and before it gained control over the country, was continuously attacked and dealt blows by counterrevolutionaries, those who pretended to be holy, profiteers, opportunists, those who are comfortable and feel no pain, and especially those ulema who prayed. After victory it was not immune to their blows or their treason. In this way, alongside the small groups who picked up arms and fought against the revolution and claimed some victims, these people also undermined the foundations and stabbed Islam and Muslims in the back. Perhaps the most telling and undeniable evidence of these truths lies in the crushing and revealing sentences of the imam—peace be unto him—who at the time of each incident mentioned such things in a steadfast and clear way as the biggest danger facing the Islamic revolution. It is worth remembering that this faction's opposition to the revolution focused mainly on three issues of economics, foreign policy, and the standards by which manpower could be attracted. Keeping in mind this series of events, which no doubt indicates a perpetual and all-out effort by the enemy to weaken and destroy the revolution's foundations, it seems that in order to confront the very basis of the regime of values, they even use the holy and the high-ranking organizations of the Islamic revolution, directly and indirectly. In this way [they hope] to gradually remove the true, shining faces dedicated to the revolution so that, God forbid, the destruction of its base would become possible.

The crushing warnings delivered by the great imam—God's blessing be upon him—and sometimes the interventions of that great and holy man which solved problems on several occasions indicated the need to confront precisely and with awareness a thousand different issues and threatening incidents. Now, keeping in mind the sensitivity of the situation, the special importance of the election of the Experts in accordance with one's duty, teachings, and guidance from the Imam, carrying out one's legal duties, and seeing what has been done during the decision-making by the Council of Guardians as to who can and who cannot be a candidate, we think it necessary to analyse a few points. We hope that at this fate-determining time we have done our duty toward the Islamic revolution and the heavy responsibility that comes with being a Majles deputy, with awareness and dedication.

The sensitive and crucial situation in our country is the heaviest point of the Islamic revolution and this is something that everyone is aware of.

1. During the time of the imam—God's peace be with him—there was a religious, clerical, and reactionary movement against that great man's traditional and front-running religion, always trying to pull the society of Islam toward reaction. The imam always addressed them and informed the theological centers and the people about these frozen petrified minds and the religion that came from them. He would then put forth his own superior and problem-solving views. For example, there was their opposition to the tax law, the labor law, and obstructionism toward the then government which was eager to serve the people. They faced steadfast and clear confrontations from the imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited—on several occasions which were sometimes revealing in nature. Unfortunately after the death of the imam—God's peace be unto him—the aforementioned movement grew and is now seeking to gain complete control. There is the fear that they will destroy all the achievements of the revolution and the lofty goals of the imam—greetings unto him—in the name of religion, to bring reactionary American Islam in control.

2. We, the peoples' deputies have felt a creeping movement to remove the friends and the followers of the Imam—God's blessing upon him—and revolutionary and religious faces very clearly during the election of the Council of Experts. We believe that some of the ayatollahs and hojjat ol-eslams did not put their name forth as candidates for the Experts because of this. Therefore we would like to ask the respected leader to foil this plot. If God is willing, the ideals of the imam—greeting unto him—will take hold.

3. In seven provinces the number of candidates equals the number of representatives, in two provinces the number of candidates is less than the necessary level, in one province there are no candidates announced at all, and in the rest of the provinces the number of candidates is close to the number of representatives. In legal terms such elections are more of a "selection" than an "election." The result of the actions of the respected Council of Guardians and the faction agreeing with them has brought about such a situation at this particular time of the Experts' elections.

It is necessary to note that approving only 109 candidates for the election of 83 people illustrates this difficulty.

4. The list of the candidates announced by the Council of Guardians shows that unfortunately the determining factor in passing or failing a candidate was not this knowledge or qualifications, since some of those who have been rejected are certainly general jurists or at least had separate specializations, whereas some of those passed definitely lack the necessary knowledge and some lack the political qualifications as well.

5. Bringing up political issues, judging the candidates' political and ideological beliefs, especially accusations of opposition to Velayat-e Faqih is only aimed at getting rid of the faction following the line of the imam—greetings unto him. To have a clerical member of the respected Council of Guardians say with regard to the respected candidates that whatever grade they received, whether pass or fail, they would not be approved, indicates that prior decisions were made. The imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited—repeatedly warned the Council of Guardians to stay away from factionalism. This is why during the elections for the third Majles he appointed his own representative to supervise the actions of this Council.

The Council intended..(Mr Duzduzani's time ran out so his speech was left unfinished.)

Comments made by the deputy speaker of the Majles:

Following the pre-agenda speeches Mr Hashemiyan gave a speech during which he remembered the anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam Hasan 'Asgari—may God expedite his return—mentioning some of his superior characteristics and background.

In another segment of his speech he conveyed his condolences to the Hezbollah people on the occasion of the anniversary of the death of the commanders of the Islamic Republic's armed forces, General Fallahi, general Namju, general Fakuri, brother Kolahduz, and brother Mohammad Jahan-ara who were killed in an aircrash and praised their achievements.

He also conveyed his condolences on the occasion of the martyrdom of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hasheminejad and said: He was a man who mixed knowledge and action and followed the Imam, never giving up the struggle.

He thanked the Hezbollah ummah for taking part in the march for unity and victory, condemning the widespread military presence of the United States in the Persian Gulf.

Mr Hashemiyan continued: The unity that exists among the Islamic peoples has roots and the revolution's continuation is certainly possible with this unity. We should not damage this unity by being prejudiced or shortsighted because the true children of the revolution will be dissapointed then.

He asked the respected leader to supervise this issue just as the imam did—may God expedite his passage to paradise—so that short-sighted people will not disappoint Hezbollah.

The bills passed by the Majles:

The report filed by RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent from yesterday's open session indicates that the plan to attach two footnotes, 3 and 4, to Article 9 of the law of landlord and tenants dated 3 May 1983 received from the Council of Guardians, was the first item on the agenda of yesterday's open session of the Majles. The deputies corrected footnote 3 as follows in order to gain the approval of the Council of Guardians:

Footnote 3 - In cases where the court issues an order to evacuate premises occupied by refugees of the imposed war, in cases where there are shortages because of difficulties, it has the duty not to order a mass evacuation for a maximum of two years from 25 September 1990.

The second item on the agenda was a request from some of the deputies to return the plan to "form the group 'messengers of health' in accordance with Article 85 of the Constitution." Following speeches in favor of and against this plan, it was put to a vote and approved.

The third item was a request by some of the deputies to return the plan for "re-education of the medical profession in accordance with Article 85 of the Constitution. Following a vote this request was approved.

According to this report, the last item on the agenda of yesterday's open session of the Majles was a report on the first round of discussions of the commission for personnel and administrative affairs with regard to the legal plan to "remove from and prevent the selection of liberals and members of the Hojjatiyeh organization for key positions in the country." Following an explanation by the deputy head of that commission there was a suggestion that the plan be dormant for 6 months, which was not approved. Continued discussion on the above plan was postponed until the next open session of the Majles.

The Majles will have an open session tomorrow.

Cabinet Meets, Approves Finance Bills

LD3110114790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Excerpt] This morning's cabinet meeting discussed the reports of various government committees on the proposals of executive organizations, a number of which were then approved by the government.

One of the proposals approved in this morning's session was the cancellation of unpaid taxes and water, electricity, telephone, and gas bills in the war-stricken areas, as well as providing time for the people who have received loans and the cancellation of the fines imposed, and continuing the above-mentioned services regardless of the debts.

The bill was approved to setup a company for foreign investment and joint cooperation with individuals and legal bodies in productive, professional, commercial, mineral, and service enterprises, to be established abroad. [passage omitted]

ABRAR Urges Government To Control Prices

LD3110112890 Tehran IRNA in English 1011 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 31, IRNA—The morning daily 'ABRAR' Wednesday [31 October] editorialized on economic problems and high prices of basic commodities which the paper said people could hardly afford.

"Economic pressure caused by inflation and high prices has become a continuous nightmare for day and night. Those with one job are looking for the second one and those working in two jobs are after the third one and occasionally one in the night shift..." wrote the daily."

ABRAR noted that people believe their problems have been neglected and that no one cares to control the soaring prices.

Government organizations in charge of public services and utilities suddenly multiply rates of their services upon the approval of the High Economic Council—"hundred percent legal?" wrote the article.

It regretted the fact that there was no government spokesman to talk to the people on current affairs, the future plans for solving their problems and possible remedies.

"This is where people become confused since there is no one to provide them with answers and no official or authority to provide them with explanation," commented the daily.

However, it added, if people are considered the main pillars of the revolution and if the system relies on them, at least their problems should be solved.

"People expect the government to control prices of basic commodities," writes the daily adding "this is people's least expectation for an ordinary life."

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

Domestic Economy Disrupted by Indian Unrest

BK2910132890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1227 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 29 (AFP)—Political unrest in parts of India has disrupted the supply of petroleum and oil products to Nepal, directly affecting the country's economy, an informed source here said Monday.

The state-run Nepal Oil Corporation said Monday that student protests in the Indian northeastern state of Assam had disrupted the regular supply of petroleum products from Barauni in the state of Bihar for the past several months.

Required products such as kerosene and diesel were temporarily brought in from the port city of Haldia in the state of West Bengal, but this has not been possible for the past eighteen days because of the non-movement of oil tankers and other trucks resulting from the unrest in Assam.

The resulting shortage in Nepal has led to mile long queues forming outside petrol pumps and other distribution depots.

Nepalese exports through Haldia have also been disrupted by political violence in other parts of India.

A spokesman for the consumers' forum said the difficulty of transporting Indian goods to Nepal had resulted in price hikes on those goods of between ten and fifteen per cent in the past two weeks.

'More Than 20,000' Demonstrate for Constitution

BK2710155090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1524 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 27 (AFP)—Kathmandu was again the scene of left-wing protests as United Left Front (ULF) demonstrators called on King Birendra to promulgate the new constitution on November 9 or face "dire consequences."

The demonstration by more than 20,000 members of the ULF—an alliance of seven Nepal Communist Party (NCP) factions—came a week after the royal palace submitted amendments to a draft constitution.

Demonstrators here called on the palace to promulgate the original draft constitution submitted by a Constitution Recommendation Commission (CRC) and reviewed by the Council of Ministers. They said "reactionary forces" would try to have a "counter draft constitution" promulgated on November 9, instead of the CRC draft constitution.

The demonstration, headed by Man Mohal Adhikari, NCP general secretary, finally converged at an open theatre here where communist leaders spoke against the palace's amendments to the draft constitution.

One speaker warned that if "reactionaries" influenced the palace to push the amended constitution "then once again people will be forced to unite to fight against such elements, and this time the monarch will face dire consequences."

Ten weeks of violent protests for democracy earlier this year in Nepal left about 500 people dead and more than 1,000 injured.

"The monarch should act according to the general public's views and expections and he should not act against the people," said Narayan Man Bijuchke, leader of the Nepal Peasants and Labourers Union.

Mr. Bijuchke said the draft constitution should be promulgated on the given date or else the consequences "can be very bad for the monarch himself."

The ULF is a member of the Coalition Interim Government of Nepal, along with the Nepali Congress.

Protesters Demand Constitution's Promulgation

BK2610170590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1656 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 26 (AFP)—Thousands of Nepal Communist Party (NCP) members and pro-leftist peasants demonstrated here Friday and demanded that the country's new constitution be promulgated as scheduled.

About 15,000 peasants and members of the NCP's Marxist faction brandished placards with slogans calling for the overthrow of "reactionary elements trying to sabotage (the) democratic Constitution" and demanding "democratic rights."

The Royal Palace has said King Birendra will promulgate the new Constitution on November 9. A draft Constitution prepared by the Constitution Recommendation Commission was reviewed by the Council of Ministers on October 14.

The demonstrators circled Kathmandu and more than 30,000 people converged on an open theatre to listen to an address by Marxist- Leninist faction leader Chandra Prakash Mainali.

Mr. Mainali was pardoned by King Birendra last month after spending more than 16 years in prison for murder.

In his first major speech since his release, Mr. Mainali called for the promulgation of the Constitution on the scheduled date.

He also said the new Constitution should create a constitutional monarchy, giving power to the people, establishing a multi-party democratic system of government and enshrining fundamental human rights.

Mr. Mainali said it was very doubtful the king would promulgate the Constitution on November 9 "as the reactionary elements are still trying to play a deceptive role."

The reactionary elements were preparing drafts of an "anti- democratic" Constitution, he said, warning that the Nepalese people would take to the streets again if the king proclaimed an anti- democratic Constitution.

Ten weeks of violent protests for democracy earlier this year in Nepal left about 500 people dead and more than 1,000 injured.

Protests Continue Over Constitution Delay

BK2810145190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1428 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 28 (AFP)—Protests continued Sunday over King Birendra's delay in issuing the new constitution, with a communist-called strike bringing a township on the outskirts of the capital to a standstill.

Protests blaming King Birendra for delaying the constitution and demanding that it be promulgated have been mounting since last Tuesday. The monarch has promised the new constitution on November 9.

Sunday's strike in Lalitpur was called by the Nepal Communist Party (NCP). All shops were closed and there was no transportation, party sources said.

More than 16,000 party followers staged a two-hour protest march, and later converged on a central market for a rally, where the crowd swelled to more than 25,000 as speakers strongly criticised the king for his "delay tactics."

"If the king proclaimed the constitution of his own, we will burn it publicly in protest," said NCP President Tulsi Lal Amatya, who is honorary chairman of the United Left Front (ULF), a member of the interim government.

He said the Nepalese people would not accept any constitution other than the one drafted by an official commission and reviewed by the interim government and which fully guarantees fundamental rights and a multiparty system.

"If the constitution would not be promulgated on November 9 ... the people would once again take their demands to the street," Mr. Amatya warned, adding they would restart the "revolution for the fulfillment of our political goal."

Draft Constitution Given to King Birendra

BK3010160590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1458 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 30 (AFP)—The fate of Nepal's new constitution was in the hands of King Birendra after the Cabinet resubmitted a draft that rejected all undemocratic changes proposed by him, a Cabinet source said Tuesday.

The Council of Ministers, or Cabinet, met for five hours behind closed doors on Monday and decided that no fundamental changes would be made to the draft they agreed to on October 10, the source said.

They did however incorporate some of the king's suggestions, including a clause retaining the same national anthem, and the formation of a State Council standing committee headed by a royal appointee.

But the standing committee, which was proposed by the Royal Palace to serve as a parallel body to the Cabinet, has no independent power and its inclusion in the draft was merely a cosmetic win for the king.

The source said that despite efforts by the royal palace to alter the draft on issues of sovereignty, human rights, multiparty democracy and constitutional monarchy, the Cabinet refused to budge on their earlier draft.

The earlier draft was drawn up by a government commission and was reviewed and approved by the Cabinet. But the Royal Palace balked on its backing for the draft and issued a counter-draft that proposed major changes.

The interim government of Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai rejected the counter-draft October 21, but talks on slight alterations continued between the premier and the king.

The source added, "the reference to the people's movement in the preamble of the Constitution which was deleted in the counter-draft of the palace, has now been kept intact."

King Birendra gave in to a popular movement for democracy in April, when he disbanded Nepal's 30-year-old partyless system, appointed an interim government and called for a new constitution that would set the stage for elections.

The king has fixed November 9 as the date for promulgating the new Constitution. He had earlier said it would be ready by October 17.

Bhutan

Security Forces Kill Four Militants in Ambush

BK2910112090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1100 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 29 (AFP)—Bhutanese security forces opened fire killing four anti-government militants after a party of school teachers they were escorting was ambushed in the kingdom's south, the Royal Bhutanese Embasssy said here Monday.

More than 200 militants armed with bombs, guns and knives were involved in the ambush in Lamidara sub-district Sunday which left three security men injured, an embassy press statement said.

Security forces started shooting at the militants after warning shots were ignored, killing four, the statement said. Four more were captured along with 11 bombs, 84 detonators and four muzzle-loading guns, it said, adding that the remaining fled.

The ambush was staged when security forces were reportedly escorting 20 teachers of a primary school, which had been forced to shut down because of militant threats to students and their parents.

Bhutanese of Nepalese descent, who form the majority in the kingdom's south and constitute some 30 per cent of Bhutan's estimated 800,000 population, have launched an anti-government campaign alleging discrimination.

Thousands of ethnic Nepalese have recently fled Bhutan and created militant groups in exile demanding democracy and accusing the government of violating human rights and freedom of religion, torture and detention without trial.

The allegations are denied by the government of King Jigme Sigye Wangchuk which in turn accuses the militants of killing, intimidating and kidnapping civilians and of "subversion."

In a telephone conversation from Jhapa, south-east of the Nepal capital Kathmandu, one of the groups alleged Monday that Bhutanese security forces had unleashed a reign of terror in southern Bhutan.

The Bhutanese People's Party told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in Kathmandu that security forces had imposed "martial law along the southern frontier of Bhutan" and alleged that several people had been killed or arrested. Such allegations have in the past been rebutted by the Thimphu government, which accuses the dissidents of spreading "anti-national" propaganda.

Pakistan

Sharif 'Almost Certain' To Be Prime Minister

BK3010170190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1641 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 30 (AFP)—Nawaz Sharif, tipped as Pakistan's future prime minister and chief of the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), held a lengthy meeting Tuesday with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, official sources here said.

The sources also said the newly-elected parliament would meet here next week to elect the prime minister and power would be transfered by November 10.

The meeting was the first between the two since Mr. Sharif's multi-party IJI trounced former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Peoples Democratic Alliance (PDA) in last week's elections to the national and provincial assemblies.

Official sources said the two met for more than one hour without their aides.

The ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) said President Ghulam Ishaq Khan would summon the National Assembly soon after the election commission announces the list of deputies, expected within the next two to three days.

Quoting "political circles" in Islamabad, the official news agency said the new government would be formed by November 10 and the provincial governments installed in the second week of next month.

Pakistani newspapers speculated that Mr. Sharif, 41, a wealthy industrialist who served as chief minister of the country's largest Province of Punjab, was "almost certain" to lead the country's future government, replacing interim Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, 58, who is his IJI ally.

Karachi's influential English language daily DAWN said Mr. Sharif had already made up his mind about the composition of the federal Cabinet.

The lineup is expected to include incumbents like Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz, Communications Minister Malik Naeem Khan and Interior Minister Zahid Sarfraz, it said.

Ghulam Ahmed Bilour, leader of the pro-Moscow Awami National Party (ANP), who defeated Ms. Bhutto from a Peshawar constituency in Wednesday's parliamentary polls will be prominent among the new faces, it added.

The IJI bagged 105 seats in the 217-member house against the PDA's 45.

Analysts here said the Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), emerging as the third biggest political group with 15 seats mainly from urban centres in Ms. Bhutto's home province Sindh, would for the first time join the federal Cabinet.

The IJI swept provincial polls in Punjab, while in the southwestern province of Balochistan and Northwest Frontier Province it was comfortably placed to form a coalition with like-minded parties. [passage omitted]

Sri Lanka

Security Forces Kill 15 LTTE 'Terrorists'

BK3110085590 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0548 GMT 31 Oct 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 31 (LANKAPUVATH)—Fifteen LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists were killed yesterday in confrontations with the security forces in northern and eastern Sri Lanka. Two soldiers were killed in the fighting. Official sources said that seven terrorists were killed at Kadduvan South in Jaffna. At Manaman near the eastern town of Kattankudi, five terrorists were killed. Two soldiers were also killed in this encounter. At Mankulam in Vavuniya District, three terrorists 'Major' Ravi, Kannan and Thiandas were killed while another cadre Divas was seriously wounded.

Ministry Claims LTTE Men Dead in Batticaloa

BK3110120290 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] The Ministry of Defense states that during the last 24 hours ending at 1200 yesterday, some incidents were reported from the northern and eastern provinces. In the Batticaloa District, the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists hacked to death two old Muslim women and boy of 10 years in the village of Olukkulam. The security forces killed eight LTTE terrorists in a fierce gun battle in the village of Periativu and (Kaluativalu). The terrorists were on their way to a nearby Muslim village for a major attack. Some eighteen terrorists escaped. The civilians and home guards in this area have been (?warned) to be extra vigilant.

It is reported that the LTTE has intensified its program of forced conscription of men and women to their decreasing cadres in the Batticaloa and Amparai districts. The LTTE terrorists have imposed severe penalties on parents whose children have avoided recruitment. It is reported that several youths, who were apprehended, have been executed by LTTE kangaroo courts.